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THE TIMES

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 27 1982

Price twenty pence

£250m loss on oil for each \$1 fall

Mr. Jack Bruce-Gardyne, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, revealed that for every \$1 fall in the price of a barrel of North Sea oil the Government's tax take would be reduced by between £250m and £300m this year. The price of the oil, he said in a constituency speech in Cheshire, had fallen by \$1.50 since the beginning of the year.

Amersham sale inquiry doubts

Whitehall's embarrassment over the sale of Amersham International has grown with doubts over the possibility of an internal inquiry into the deal, which is said to have left the Treasury with £20m less than it could have raised.

Ban on Plessey sit-in lifted

A court order for Plessey workers to end a sit-in at their Radgate factory was overturned at Edinburgh Court of Session. It was ruled that the Trade Union and Industrial Relations Act, 1974 could legalize such sit-ins.



British boxer cancels fight

Appendicitis forced Colin Jones to pull out of his European waterweight title contest with the Dane Hans Henrik Palm in Copenhagen last night. Palm fought Georges Warusfel, the veteran French champion, instead.

Anger over tin price fall

As tin prices continued falling on the London Metal Exchange, dealers questioned the motives of a mystery buyer, who until the start of the week, had been supporting the market.

Adventure aid for jobless

Adventure courses for up to 10,000 young people are to be provided by the Ministry of Defence to combat the boredom of unemployment. The scheme, to be offered through local service recruitment offices, will consist largely of outdoor pursuits.

Fleet Holdings set for launch

Dealings in the shares of Fleet Holdings, which includes Express Newspapers, are expected to start next Thursday after details were published of its separation from Trafalgar House, the parent group. The new company will not include Trafalgar's half share in the Standard, the London evening newspaper.

Ankara regime hits at left

Leading members of an international organization have been rounded up in Turkey in a new clamp-down by the military authorities. The principal defence lawyer of 52 detained left-wing trade union officials is among those held.

Tanzanian jet hijacked

Unidentified hijackers diverted an Air Tanzania Boeing 737 with 99 passengers bound for Victoria, where they threatened to blow it up if it was not refuelled.

Leader page, 5

Letters: On caning judgment, from Mr. Edward Baker; jury challenges, from Leslie; Mr. Thorpe and Amnesty, from Mr. David Astor and others. Leading articles: compulsory youth service; BBC features, page 4.

The new man at the head of the Thatcher's think tank; nursing trade at the White House; will Baldwin find a place in the House?

Obituary, page 6

Mr. Keith Henderson, Sir Martin Platt, Sir William Urton

Name	News	2	Sat Review	7-12
Business	3	Science	2	
Arts	4	Services	6	
Bridge	12	Shoppers	11	
Cricket	12-16	Snow reports	13	
Chess	12	Sport	17-19	
Class	12	TV & Radio	21	
Commentary	11	Theatre	21	
Continued	11	Travel	12	
Index	11	Weather	26	

Whitelaw acts to stem overcrowding in prisons

By Peter Evans and Anthony Bevis

The Government is to introduce a partially suspended sentence in the face of a worsening prison crisis which has seen the number of prisoners in Britain rise from 40,800 in December to 43,764 yesterday.

The rise plus the need to use police and court cells in London as a emergency measure and two recent clashes with prison officers have alarmed ministers.

Now a parliamentary order laid down yesterday means courts will be able to impose partially-suspended sentences on offenders aged 21 and over for sentences of six months to two years.

Partial suspension will involve between a quarter and three-quarters of the sentence, which means that a person sentenced to two years may, after one-third remission, serve only four months in jail.

SDP council calls in Acas to end strike by 1,500 workers

By Richard Evans

Leaders of Britain's only SDP-controlled local authority called in the Arbitration, Conciliation and Advisory Service last night to try to solve an increasingly acrimonious dispute involving about 1,500 striking council employees.

The private and informal discussions between Islington Borough Council and officials of the union, the dispute came after a day of service councilors claimed the dispute, involving members of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, was being used to disrupt the SDP at national level.

Brixton report does not aid thugs, says Scarman

By a Staff Reporter

Lord Scarman yesterday defended himself against criticism made by a senior Scotland Yard officer and said that his report on last year's Brixton riots did not make it more difficult for the police to combat crime.

Amnesty move to oust Thorpe

By Michael Horsnell

A move to oust Mr. Jeremy Thorpe, the former Liberal leader, from his new £14,000-a-year job as director of Amnesty International's British section will be made at a meeting in London today of the organization's 25-member council.

This follows growing resentment amongst Amnesty's 19,000 members throughout the country and anger amongst the 11-strong staff at his appointment earlier this month.

An emergency resolution calling for the appointment to be rescinded is expected to be tabled at the meeting, which has been specially moved from Amnesty's headquarters in Southampton to St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church, ironically the scene of the organization's founding in 1961, because of the volume of protest.

The unprecedented move in the often stormy affairs of Amnesty, which campaigns for the release of prisoners of conscience, follows a week in which at least 170 letters of complaint about the appointment have been received from members and local groups.

Staff expressed their "apprehension at the increasing level of protest from the membership" and they have been backed by Amnesty's trade union liaison committee, sending more than 40 affiliated unions, which has registered its "grave concern" to the chairman of the British section, Frenchman Roger Briot.

UN sending 1,000 more troops to Lebanon

From Zoriana Pysirsky, New York, Feb. 26

The United Nations is to send another 1,000 peace-keeping troops to southern Lebanon after threats of an Israeli invasion and fighting between Palestinians and Lebanese Christians.

The extra soldiers, expected to be from France and Fiji, are to land within days to reinforce the 6,000 already in the area.

US fears Soviet block debt crisis

By Bailey Morris in Washington and Peter Wilson-Smith

Romania's failure to meet a scheduled payment of \$5.8m (£3.16m) to the United States Government is bringing new fears of a domino effect of deepening financial crisis in Eastern Europe which could put severe strains on the international monetary system.



A Royal Navy Sea King helicopter winched the 11-man crew of the 800-ton Craigantlet to safety yesterday after the container ship ran aground in heavy seas at Blackhead Point on the Galloway coast of Scotland.

Australian dockers accused of tax fiddle

Canberra, Feb. 26.—Members of an Australian dockers' union were guilty of hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of tax evasion, perpetrated extensive social-security frauds, and were involved in crimes ranging from theft to murder, according to the findings of an official inquiry.

A Royal Commission, which has been investigating the Ship Painters and Dockers' Union for nearly two years, presented an interim report to Parliament last night.

The report concentrated on tax evasion. It said that four cases involved non-payment of more than \$2m (£1.2m), and that "there are hundreds of such cases."

Caned schoolgirl awarded £1,200

By Lucy Hodges

A girl, aged 14, who was beaten by her headmistress and as a result developed warts on her buttocks of more than a foot long, has been awarded £1,200 in a settlement reached by the European Commission of Human Rights.

The report of the settlement between the girl's mother and the British Government has not yet been made public but it reveals that the Government is to send out a circular letter to educational authorities next week telling them that the use of corporal punishment may in certain circumstances be contrary to Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

BBC scents victory in breakfast TV race

By Kenneth Gosling

The BBC is expected to beat independent television to the launch of a breakfast service by a clear month if TV-AM has to stick to the May, 1983 starting date laid down by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Trapped by a voice print

Kenneth Peverley, unemployed, of Adamstown, Cardiff, was put on probation for a year at Cardiff Crown Court for burglary. When he broke into an office he knocked over a dictating machine which switched itself on, and the police recognized his voice when he muttered to himself.

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Save & Prosper

Report yesterday on

organization of American the omission of a last Sunday, Presi- in his speech made in Caraguan capital of a last Sunday, Presi- Postecor Portillo, who was trying to influence at Reagan's much-ased statement, outlined part peace plan."

Science report

How nature can help to produce acid rain

By the Staff of "Nature"

Acid rain is a natural phenomenon which has been known to occur since prehistoric times. It is caused by the reaction of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides with water in the atmosphere to form sulphuric and nitric acids. These acids then fall to the ground as rain or snow. The problem is that human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, have increased the amount of these pollutants in the atmosphere, leading to more frequent and severe acid rain.

Acid rain can have serious effects on the environment. It can damage forests, lakes, and buildings. It can also harm people, especially those with respiratory problems. However, there are ways to reduce the amount of acid rain. One way is to reduce the burning of fossil fuels. Another way is to use cleaner technologies, such as scrubbers, to remove pollutants from the smokestacks of power plants.

Carrington praises Zimbabwe's stability

From Michael Hornsby Salisbury, Feb 26

Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, will leave Zimbabwe tomorrow at the end of his first visit since independence, convinced of the country's stability despite the present political crisis.

Speaking at a press conference tonight, flanked by Mr. Witness Mangwende, the Zimbabwe Foreign Minister, Lord Carrington said: "I think the situation here is calm. If you look at it from the outside and look at the Lancaster House constitution, Mr. Mugabe is entitled to have whom he likes in his government, and it seems to me that the situation here is stable."

Lord Carrington met Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, for nearly an hour and a half yesterday and for lunch today. He said Mr. Mugabe's plans for a one-party state were among subjects covered.

"He said that he thinks that in the long term a one-party state might be the right answer for Zimbabwe, but there is no question of doing it against the wishes of the people of Zimbabwe or of doing it against the constitution or in an unconstitutional way. If you look at the constitution you will see what that means," Lord Carrington said.

Asked for his view of Zimbabwe since independence, Lord Carrington replied that despite inevitable troubles and difficulties there had been "remarkable progress if you look at it in the round". He acknowledged that there was "some unease in the white population here at the present time, probably most amongst skilled craftsmen".

He had also mentioned to Mr. Mugabe "the anxiety felt in some quarters in my country and elsewhere about detention without trial, particularly of Mr. (Wally) Sturgesford, (the white MP belonging to Mr. Ian Smith's Unionist Front party)".

The only subjects which seem to have caused discord during Lord Carrington's two-day visit were the level of British aid, which the Zimbabweans would like to see increased, and the West's approach to the Namibia issue, where Mr. Mangwende accused Britain and other countries of pandering to the whims of South Africa.

The central committee of the Patriotic Front party meets tomorrow in a critical session which should resolve questions over the leadership of Mr. Joshua Nkomo (Stephen Taylor writes).

The meeting, arising from the Cabinet last week, will also decide whether the two remaining Patriotic Front members of the Cabinet should resign. Of the four who survived the purge, one has resigned and the other has indicated he will stay.

There is considerable internal debate over the leadership and the radical faction, which maintains that the leadership has deviated from socialist principles and is concerned with feathering its nest. Despite regional differences, this group probably has more in common with the ruling Zanu (PF) party of Mr. Mugabe.

However, lacking focus and with no alternative of sufficient stature, Mr. Nkomo is likely to retain the presidency and convince the party to maintain a united front.

Rebels in Chad claim victory

Paris—The Chad rebel group, the Armed Forces of the North (AFN), said they had never lost control of the strategic central town of Oum Hadjer, which the Government said it had recaptured and held for four days until Thursday.

The AFN representative in Europe said the Government troops were ambushed, losing 417 men killed, 414 captured, and a number wounded. They abandoned much equipment.

The organization of African Unity (OAU) had intended to implement a ceasefire between the two sides tomorrow. It has been rejected by the government with the rest of a timetable leading to elections and a definitive government by the end of June.

Turkish regime swoops on peace activists

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara, Feb 26

The leading members of the Turkish section of an international left-wing peace organization were rounded up today by the authorities. Turkey's military rulers have issued a number of restrictions recently, apparently an attempt to improve their image abroad, where there has been much criticism of their human rights record.

Among the 42 leaders of the Peace Association against whom arrest warrants were issued were the Turkish section president, Mr. Mahmut Dikerdem, a former ambassador, and Mr. Orhan Apaydin, the chairman of the Istanbul Bar Association. Mr. Apaydin is also the principal defence lawyer of the 52 leaders of the left-wing Progressive Trade Unions Confederation (DISK), who are on trial for their role in the September 1980 coup.

Also included were Mr. Ali Sirmen, foreign policy analyst of the left-wing daily Cumhuriyet, Mr. Niyazi Dalyanci, owner of an Istanbul-based news agency, another liberal journalist, four former social democrat deputies, a poet, two engineers, and a doctor.

Another is Mrs. Reha Isvan, the wife of the former Mayor of Istanbul, Mr. Ahmet Isvan, who has been in custody since the Army coup of September 1980 on charges of helping DISK to organize the May Day parade in 1977, at which 36 people died.

In a written statement issued before he gave himself up in Istanbul, Mr. Apaydin claimed that the arrests were ordered simply to prevent the death penalty for 186 of the 574 leading members of the underground Dev-Yol (Revolutionary Road) organization, the largest extreme left-wing group in Turkey.

Presenting the 1,319-page indictment today, the military prosecutor said the defendants were responsible for 333 murders and a wide range of terrorist offences. He said their aim was to "overturn the constitutional order by force, and replace it with a Marxist-Leninist state, through the strategy of people's war".

The prosecutor asked for prison terms of eight to 36 years for the rest of the defendants. The trial is expected to begin in the summer.

Among those facing the death penalty are four leaders who were listed as having died under torture in the latest report by Amnesty International. The four, together with four others who had been listed as dead, were recently presented to the press.

Mr. Bulent Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister, was ordered today to appear before a civil court on charges of insulting a provincial police chief in June, 1980 (Reuters reports).

Bonn ministers deny bribery allegations

Bonn, Feb 26. — Two senior Cabinet members and a close aide of Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, are being investigated on suspicion of bribery, the justice authorities said today.

The prosecutor's office said that the investigation involved three other politicians, one a former minister, and senior executives of the Flick concern, a private holding company with interests in steel, engineering and munitions.

The Cabinet men named were Herr Hans Matthöfer, the Finance Minister and a member of Herr Schmidt's Social Democratic Party (SPD), and Count Otto Lambsdorff, the Economics Minister and a Free Democrat.

The prosecutor's office said that they and Herr Schmidt's Chancellorery Secretary, Herr Manfred Lambsdorff, together with the other politicians, had all dealt officially with requests by the Flick for tax concessions.

A decision on whether to press charges would be taken once the investigation was completed. "Further details cannot be disclosed to avoid compromising the investigations," it said.

In a statement issued by his ministry, Herr Matthöfer recalled a report a last December by Herr Schmidt's news magazine which alleged that Flick had donated DM50,000 (about £11,360) to him for the SPD.

The report, which Herr Matthöfer denied at the time, linked the donation with government approval for relief of tax on investments of proceeds from a DM200m shares sale.

"What is correct is that not even the possibility of such a donation... was ever mentioned to me," he said today.

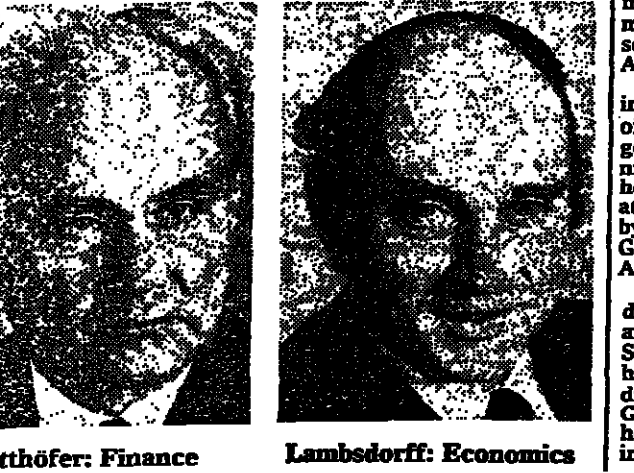
An equally forceful denial came from Count Lambsdorff, who is visiting the United States, and who was quoted by his ministry as saying that the allegation was completely untenable. His statements were endorsed by Herr Lothar Rühl, the government spokesman, who told a news conference that Bonn saw no reason for the Ministers or Herr Lambsdorff to resign.

The investigations, among the widest ever launched against Bonn politicians, were less than 24 hours after one of the industrialists on the list announced he had resigned as president-elect of the West German Industry Confederation (BDI).

Herr Eberhard von Brauchitsch, a Flick deputy chairman, said in a letter passed to the press that he understood a possible link was being investigated between company donations and its investment of proceeds from selling shares in the Daimler-Benz company in early 1976.

Other company executives named by the prosecutor were Dr. Friedrich Karl Flick, the executive chairman and Herr Manfred Lambsdorff, a member of a Flick subsidiary, Herr Hans Friedrichs, the foreign Economics minister who was succeeded by Count Lambsdorff in 1977 and who is now head of the Dresdner Bank, was also under investigation, the prosecutor's office said.

The two remaining politicians named were Herr Horst-Ludwig Rieken, former FDP state economics minister in North Rhine-Westphalia, and Herr Rudolf Eberle, the present state economics minister in Baden-Württemberg. — Reuters.



Matthöfer: Finance Lambsdorff: Economics

Polish party told to stop bickering

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Feb 26

Mr. Mieczyslaw Rokowski, the Deputy Prime Minister, has appealed for an end to bickering in the Polish Communist Party, in a speech to the party's two-day plenary session in Warsaw.

He said: "If substantive discussions are replaced by undermining actions, innuendoes and nebulous suggestions, as well as libel, then the much-delayed unity will not come. My view is that such practices are out of place in our party."

That comment, and indeed much of the speech, seems aimed at rebutting criticism voiced by Central Committee members during the meetings.

The criticism centred on three points: the need for the party to take a more aggressive stance in the country; the need to purify its ranks by purging careerists who joined in the 1970s; and the lack of consultation between the Government leadership and the party over the draft discussion paper on the shape of trade unions.

It is understood that some Central Committee members only learned of the union proposals after an interview in *The Times* with the Trade Minister Stanislaw Ciolek, who was picked up and broadcast to Poland by Western radio stations a week before the guidelines were officially published.

Mr. Rokowski emphasized that there had been adequate consultation, that the quest for ideological purity should be tempered and that the main unifying point for the party should be a front for national understanding.

Apart from General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, who delivered a summing up speech that struck similar tones, Mr. Rokowski was the most senior speaker at the plenum, at least as far as the official press account is concerned.

Mr. Rokowski is a prominent liberal reformer within the party.

Meanwhile the Catholic Church in Poland has been searching for a new strategy or at least a new way of portraying and implementing the old one. The persistent dilemma facing the Polish Episcopate, which met yesterday and today, has been how to maintain criticism of the martial law regime while not pushing General Jaruzelski too hard.

The result of the plenum — which showed General Jaruzelski firmly in the saddle but an increasing noisy hard-line chorus in the lower reaches of the Central Committee — has probably reinforced the view in the Episcopate that the church must proceed cautiously, aiming criticism only at specific targets such as the military rather than at the regime as a whole.



Wine war tops Rome agenda

President Mitterrand, preceded by agenda was the six-month old "wine war", which began when Italian wine exports were delayed by French customs procedures, and later banned. This dispute has led to fears in Italy that France might adopt a protectionist policy in other areas, such as shoes, furniture and electrical goods.

'Sacrifice' theory at coup trial

From Richard Wigg Madrid, Feb 26

General Alfonso Armada, accused of plotting last year's attempt to overthrow Spanish democracy, was presented by the defence today as the man who sacrificed himself to rescue 350 MPs held at gunpoint.

An impressive procession of 10 generals present at Army headquarters on the coup night testified in written evidence in favour of the conduct of General Armada, then deputy Spanish Army chief. They supported his claim to have obeyed superior orders throughout.

"In this situation there has got to be a sacrifice and it is going to be by me," General Armada was alleged to have declared in the generals' written evidence called by Señor Ramon Hermosilla, read out at the court martial today.

This was allegedly after receiving a telephone call from Lieutenant-General Jaime Milans del Bosch, the former Captain General in Valencia, who is said to have suggested that General Armada should propose himself to the MPs to head a government of national salvation in a negotiated settlement with Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero, who was occupying Parliament.

Ascribing the idea to General Milans brought a new turn in this trial where most of the accused have sought to blame General Armada.

The defence evidence was inconclusive on the key point of whether General Armada's going to Parliament that night was his decision or if he had been authorized to attempt a personal initiative by Lieutenant General José Gabaldon, the then Spanish Army chief.

The evidence today left no doubt that King Juan Carlos and Lieutenant General Sabino Fernandez Campos, head of the royal household, disapproved of the idea of General Armada offering to head a coalition government in the King's name.

West rejects Israeli media accusations

By Our Foreign Staff

The BBC and *The New York Times* have rejected accusations by the Israeli Government that they have distorted their coverage of the Middle East because of Arab threats against their correspondents.

The BBC told *The Times* that despite the difficulties of working in the Middle East, it had never suppressed news because it feared the consequences of broadcasting it nor had it broadcast items in order to appease a particular party.

In New York Mr. Craig Whitney, deputy foreign editor of *The New York Times*, said that no story was ever suppressed by the newspaper in order to protect a reporter, and he knew of no occasion on which a story was suppressed by a reporter.

"I sincerely doubt that any correspondent of ours has ever suppressed a news story that he knew about," he said.

The campaign launched recently by the Israeli Government alleges double standards by Western news organizations in their reporting of events in Israel and the occupied territories, compared to events in the Arab world, particularly Lebanon and Syria.

The BBC said there was no evidence to support speculation that threats against Mr. Tim Llewellyn, its former Middle East correspondent, had been planned by Syrian organizations.

The corporation withdrew Mr. Llewellyn from the region in the summer of 1980 because of the threats to his life, the spokesman said, and had since been replaced by a new Middle East correspondent who was based in Nicosia.

The Foreign Press Association which represents more than 200 journalists and photographers based in Israel took a front page advertisement in the English-language *Jerusalem Post* to express concern about the implications of the government's campaign.

This unusual step was taken after a speech in the Knesset during which Dr. Eliahu Ben-Elissar, chairman of the foreign affairs and defence committee, appealed to the association to join "the struggle for freedom of reporting and coverage, for an end to toadyism and submission".

On Thursday there were incidents on the Golan Heights when Israeli troops clashed with reporters and cameramen attempting to cover the barricading of four Druze Arab villages.

Army road blocks seal off disputed Sinai town

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem, Feb 26

Army road blocks were put up around the Sinai settlement of Yamit this afternoon to prevent militant Jews from moving into the town which is to be handed back to Egypt on April 26.

The barricades were reported to have been taken down less than two hours later, after protests from local people.

Mrs. Ela Weizman, a leader of the Stop the Withdrawal from Sinai Campaign said in a telephone interview that soldiers manning the road blocks prevented all non-residents from entering the area. At one stage, she said, scores of cars were held up.

"We then had some hard words with the general on the spot and explained that many religious people were coming to visit for the Sabbath. We also issued a statement to Israeli television saying that we would resist the attempt to stop outsiders coming to visit."

At the Army spokesman's office in Tel Aviv, there was confusion about the operation, which was to prevent a mass incursion to protesters into Sinai over the next three weeks. According to the organizers, some 3,000 Jews are planning to arrive in the area from 37 settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

While the state-controlled Israel radio was reporting at 6pm that the barricades had been lifted, quoting a senior officer on the spot who described the episode as a misunderstanding, the Army spokesman was saying the barricades were still in place and the operation was continuing.

Tonight the protesters were hailing the brevity of the operation as another victory in their campaign to oppose the April pull-back.

"We are continuing with our plans to oppose the retreat, just as before," Mrs. Weizman said.

We will not tolerate the idea of the Army discriminating who can and cannot come here. That is what happened to the Jews in the ghettos 40 years ago when they were forced to wear yellow badges."

Paris and Bonn put London in the cold

From Jonathan Fenby Paris, Feb 26

The agreement between France and West Germany reached at summit talks here on Thursday on ways to protect Europe from the impact of high American interest rates has tended to isolate Britain in the European Community.

The French look on the agreement between President François Mitterrand and Herr Helmut Schmidt as a key test of commitment to the EEC, which want European nations to pledge themselves to the idea that they should keep their currencies stable whatever happens as a result of American interest rates.

One idea being floated in Paris is that companies wanting to raise money should float capital issues in the European currency unit, the ECU, a special money.

The interest rate question is part of a much wider issue of European unity on which Britain is seen as being increasingly isolated. French official sources talked of "a certain egocentricity" in Britain's attitude. The joint declaration spoke of the need to rise above national interests, which is seen here as appointed reference to Britain's concern about its budgetary contribution to the EEC.

Britain is regarded by the French Government as the main obstacle to Community unity on a whole range of issues, ranging from the interest rate war with America to farm prices. The palmy days of the Mitterrand-Thatcher summit of last September, when France seemed to be seeking a renewal of friendly relations with Britain, a now dead, instead, France is seeking to build on the very close relations with West Germany which resulted from the summit meeting here.

The first attempt to convert the understanding on interest rates into a Community-wide agreement was expected to be made yesterday in Rome, where M. Mitterrand began talks with Italian leaders. Other EEC member governments are expected to be contacted rapidly. The Franco-German relationship, evident at the meetings between M. Mitterrand and Herr Schmidt on Wednesday and Thursday is expected to be the cornerstone of European unity.

Britain is now being presented as the principal obstacle to this. The French hope that British attempts to hold down farm prices in the current round of talks will be rejected by other European nations. They are encouraged by the statement agreed with Herr Schmidt which stresses that farm price questions must be separated from issues of how much each country pays to the European budget. Britain has in the past sought to hold down food prices to the cost of European policies.

Formal Franco-German proposals on interest rates will probably be made at a meeting of Finance Ministers of the EEC on March 15 and 16 in Brussels. There are clear problems in the way of establishing an effective joint approach. Both Paris and Bonn are anxious to maintain a good working relationship with Washington and do not want differences over interest rates to get in the way of broader understanding.

Bonn, for its part, is against any form of control of capital movements as the German delegation made clear there were too while, in the background, there are fears that M. Mitterrand's crusade to reconquer France's domestic market from importers might lead to protectionist policies.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Sweeping raids in Pakistan

Islamabad.—The authorities in Pakistan, stepping up the campaign against anti-Social Elements, have arrested more than 600 people in Sind and Punjab provinces. (Hasan Akhtar writes)

Newspapers have reported a crackdown on students in a number of cities and towns and two jailbreaks in the North-West Frontier Province, in which two convicts were reported to have been shot dead by police. Many students have been rusticated.

The Duke of Edinburgh, who arrived in Karachi yesterday on a three-day visit, was received by the Sind Governor, Lieutenant-General S. M. Abbasi. The Duke is here in his capacity as president of the World Wildlife Fund.

Union leader's throat cut

Santiago.—The body of Señor Tucapel Jimenez, the Chilean civil servants' union leader, was found on the outskirts of Santiago. His throat was cut, police sources said.

Señor Jimenez recently demanded the formation of a national union to fight for the return of union freedoms in Chile where such activity is severely restricted by the Pinochet regime.

Court allows Corsica law

Paris.—An Opposition challenge to the law passed last month, giving Corsica a wide measure of autonomy, has been rejected by the Constitutional Court, which did not agree that the principle of the indivisibility of the sovereignty of the French state was infringed.

However, it objected to four articles in the wider decentralization law affecting metropolitan France. M. Gaston Gervais, the Minister of the Interior, said this involved only a technicality which would not prevent promulgation of the law in a few days.

Pretoria 'frees' journalist

Johannesburg.—Mr. Zwelakhe Sisulu, the banned black journalist, has been released after eight months' detention without trial under South Africa's Terrorism Act, the Transvaal Attorney General's office said.

The three-year banning order on Mr. Sisulu, a former president of the black Media Workers' Association of South Africa, remains in force, barring him from political and social gatherings and restricting his freedom of movement.

Parsons for Washington



Sir Anthony Parsons (above), Britain's permanent representative at the United Nations, is expected to become the new British Ambassador in Washington later this year, according to diplomatic sources. (Nicholas Ashford writes)

If the appointment is confirmed he will succeed Sir Nicholas Henderson, who was brought out of retirement to replace Mr. Peter Jay. Sir Anthony is expected to be replaced by Sir John Thomson, the High Commissioner in Delhi. Sir Anthony, who will be 60 in September, will have the distinction of being given the Foreign Service's top post abroad after reaching retirement age.

During a distinguished career he has served in Baghdad, Cairo, Khartoum, Amman, Bahrain, Ankara and Tehran.

TENTATIVE FINDINGS ON MARIJUANA

From Our Own Correspondent Washington, Feb 26

Smoking marijuana may damage health but no more than tobacco, according to the results of a 15-month study of the drug's possible health hazards.

The study, carried out by the Institute of Health of the American National Academy of Sciences, finds that although marijuana produces a variety of reversible, short-term health effects, though there is no firm permanent damage.

However, the report gives a warning to the effect that "what little we know for certain about the effects of marijuana on human health — and all that we have reason to suspect — justify serious national concern".

The most disturbing part of the report is the section dealing with marijuana smoking among school children. It shows that more than 60 per cent of high school students have smoked marijuana and that 9 per cent of them use it on a daily basis.

It says that the drug impairs memory, impairs speech and slows learning. It may also produce a range of mental responses, from euphoria to confusion or delirium — symptoms of particular concern, the report notes, because much of the heavy use of marijuana by adolescents is carried out during school hours.

Correction

In our report yesterday on President Reagan's speech to the Organization of American States the omission of a phrase suggested he was in Managua, Nicaragua. In fact it was President Lopez Portillo of Mexico who spoke in Managua.

The sentence should have read: "In his speech made in the Nicaraguan capital of Managua last Sunday, President Lopez Portillo, who was clearly trying to influence President Reagan's much-heralded statement, outlined a three-part peace plan."

The semi-detached Mr Sparrow takes over the Thatcher think tank

Two weeks ago merchant banker John Sparrow was sitting in his City office when a phone call came summoning him to Downing Street. For more than five years as London personnel chief of Morgan Grenfell he had been quietly advising the Prime Minister on financial and industrial affairs. This time he was certain there could be only two reasons he might be wanted — for advice on the Laker rescue or on the winding up of De Lorean motors.

Instead, he was taken up to the Cabinet Secretary, Sir Robert Armstrong, and offered the directorship of the Central Policy Review Staff, the "Think Tank", a job he did not even know was available and had certainly never considered for himself.

Yesterday, after the appointment was formally announced, Mr Sparrow admitted that he had been "totally surprised". So were other Conservative advisers. The battle to win the Prime Minister's ear is a fierce one, particularly at a time when the Government is beginning to marshal its various policy advisers.

Mr Sparrow recalls that he was first asked to give financial advice to Mrs Thatcher in opposition. He still does not know who suggested him then — or indeed for his new job. He had one interview with the opposition leader in her House of Commons office and has hardly seen her since. He has simply circulated short papers on interest rates and the financial markets — in large numbers in opposition, less frequently in government. Of the other mem-

bers of the Cabinet, he is closest to Sir Geoffrey Howe.

His political position is regarded by his friends as that of a fairly straightforward City monetarist. In his own words: "I am not a particularly political person. I like to think of myself as at least semi-detached and dispassionate. Twenty years ago I was a Conservative councillor in Ealing and considered my views perhaps closest to those of Iain Macleod. In as much as I have a political view I still think that I am a Macleod man which means, in my book, being much closer to Margaret Thatcher than to, say, Francis Pym."

John Sparrow's mild, persuasive demeanour may have appealed to the Prime Minister (his



John Sparrow: mild, persuasive

style is very like that of the outgoing Robin Ibbotson but his appointment has not pleased those who believe the Think Tank has become too dominated by the Whitehall machine to serve Mrs Thatcher's reelection.

The role of the Think Tank has never before stayed the same from one director to another. Under its first chief, Lord Rothschild, the best and brightest of industry and the Civil Service were brought together with the aim of providing an alternative voice to accepted Whitehall wisdoms. But it took a steep dive in prime ministerial popularity when Rothschild's challenged Edward Heath's "good news" speeches with a report that unless Britain stopped acting like a rich nation she would be one of the poorest in Europe by 1985.

Rothschild's successor, Sir Kenneth Berrill, was himself a civil servant, worked more closely with the Whitehall machine, but still managed to preside over the notorious Think Tank attack on the lavishness of Britain's representation overseas. Since then, however, despite important industrial work under Berrill and Ibbotson, the impact of the CPRS has been much less.

A strong right-wing strand among Mrs Thatcher's team would very much like to have used the opportunity of changing the head of the Think Tank for reviving its radical past. A Monday Club report by Graham Mather of the Institute of

Directors was by coincidence published last week. It stated that "the resources of the CPRS appear to be used in areas of marginal significance to Party and Government. Whilst it is engaged in a study on cashless pay, for example, it has apparently produced nothing on the longer term future of tripartite intervention in the economy and the future of the NEDC."

John Sparrow admitted yesterday that he had been given no guidelines by the Cabinet Secretary on how the Prime Minister wanted the CPRS to be run. He has met Robin Ibbotson only once, very briefly, and so far no others of the 20-strong team. He can be expected to keep up work on nationalized industries. At Morgan Grenfell — which will continue paying his unspecified salary with the help of a £33,000 a year contribution from the Exchequer — he was a director of Coalite, United Gas Industries and had a strong interest in the privatization of the energy sector.

He also has the same contractual arrangement as his predecessor. As one ICI analyst put it yesterday, "Men who know as much about government thinking as heads of the Think Tank become too valuable to their companies to leave in Whitehall a moment longer than necessary. Just as ICI want Ibbotson back, so will his bank want Mr Sparrow back."

But it was in the United States that the book really took off. Fuelled by unusually ecstatic reviews when it first appeared there last March, the hardback edition has sold 90,000 copies, and the American paperback has just been produced in a run of one million copies. Film rights have been sold for \$200,000. Having failed to take the Booker Prize, Thomas deserves the recognition of a Queen's Award for Export Achievement.

The *White Hotel* charts a German Jewish woman's grim journey through psychoanalysis with Sigmund Freud to the unspeakable horrors of mass extermination at Babi Yar.

Donald Thomas himself is the antithesis of his wide and bloodstained canvas. The 47-year-old son of a plasterer from Redruth, Cornwall, he wears the slightly weary look of a scholar approaching middle age, in thick black jersey and not-quite-new corduroy. The thinning grey hair is undisciplined and the face, like that of his namesake, Dylan, was probably once cherubic. Divorced, with three children, he lives quietly in a small house in a village, working as a translator of Russian poetry, when he lost his job as an English lecturer in 1978. Hereford College closed down, the victim of educational cuts. It was then that Thomas began to learn the art of writing prose.

He said: "I became the publicity officer for the campaign to keep the college open; I wrote the pamphlets and the posters. The chairman of governors was a vicar who was brilliant with his pencil; he edited my posters down to bare essentials."

He returned to New College, Oxford, where he had been an undergraduate, intending to undertake a study of the problems of translation. But he wrote *The White Hotel* instead.

"The precise moment of discovery was reading Kuznetsov's novel *Babi Yar*. I only picked it up to read on a plane journey to America. But I found myself completely absorbed by it. I had written poetry which had figured Freud on several occasions. I realized that the victims of the holocaust were, in the main, Jews. I

Roaring trade at the White Hotel

This week Penguin Books realized too that most psychoanalysts were Jews, as were their patients. From that came the realization that Freud had been imbued with the humanist beliefs of the nineteenth century, and had studied individuals with great care, in contrast to Hitler who exterminated thousands without a second thought.

What he was trying to do, Thomas says, was to touch the nerve ends of the twentieth century by finding a metaphor to connect what he sees as its two central themes, deep introspection and mass destruction.

"This is a very self-conscious age; we know we are brutes. No one at the time questioned why Genghis Khan slaughtered millions; it was just accepted. But when Hitler and Stalin did the same thing, people began to ask why."

Last year Thomas was invited to read passages from *The White Hotel* to an American Jewish audience on the fortieth anniversary of the Babi Yar massacre, but he declined.

"I felt great guilt writing about such a horrific event, and I had to satisfy myself that I was not writing it for simple commercial exploitation. Writing it was a very private thing and so should reading it be. I would be very unhappy declaiming it from a rostrum."

He feared a hostile reaction from the Jewish community when the book first appeared, but it never came. At the same time, he is not altogether surprised that America woke up to the book before England.

"Psychoanalysis is much more favourably regarded in the United States, where so many people are either analysts or analysts' patients. Americans are also much more ready to accept an unusual format, more open to something new and original. And of course there is a very large Jewish population, particularly in New York where interest was first aroused. In Britain, it requires exceptional publicity to get a serious novel going."

Recently Thomas went to Washington to undertake a semester's university teaching, but he fled home to Hereford after only two weeks. "I could not stand all the attention, the publicity and the phone calls. I cannot be the successful author of *The White Hotel*; I have to be the still-unsuccessful author of my next book."

His next is *The Improvisatore*, just off the typewriter, which is again set in Russia with a dissident poet as hero. Thomas has never been to the Soviet Union; his knowledge of Russian comes from his academic service, where he took a language course and was graded "suitable for low-level interrogation after further training". He never became an interrogator, but he discovered Russian literature.

Donald Thomas is now a wealthy man, and his accountant keeps pointing out the benefits of residence in various sunny tax havens. But, if he moves anywhere, it will be back to the rocks and the wild sea of his native Cornwall. More than any literary or commercial success, says Thomas, a writer needs his roots.

Alan Hamilton

Why Baldwin deserves his place in the House

by Julian Critchley

Two empty plinths stand in the Members' Lobby of the House of Commons.

On either side stands a statue of every modern Prime Minister until Attlee — every one, that is, except Stanley Baldwin.

There is a move to have that omission put right, but the decision will not be taken on the nod. Many Labour MPs are not keen on celebrating the Tory who presided over the General Strike and the Depression. And a number of Tories would rather reserve a place for a more maternal figure...

Baldwin as seen by Low in 1935: Baldwin deals the League of Nations a severe blow



"YOU KNOW YOU CAN TRUST ME"

Last August, while staying at my cousin's house in Somerset, I discovered a collection of 36 speeches made by Stanley Baldwin between the years 1923 and 1926, and published by Penguin Books under the title *On England*. I was entranced.

Of the 36 only four were on political subjects, the remainder ranged over a variety of subjects of immediate interest to his listeners. They were witty, learned and without rancour. Compared with the belligerence of today's politics, what a breath of fresh air they are.

Here was a Prime Minister and party leader who found time not only to indulge his own strong sense of local patriotism in his native town (Bewdley), "one came out of

this red soil, and one will return to it and lay one's bones in it", but to evoke the *genius loci* in every other place he visited and share his catholic knowledge and expertise in literature, the arts, history and institutions.

His love of the country and wild life comes out in his dedication to the bird sanctuary in Hyde Park to the memory of WH Hudson; his deep and undemonstrative religious convictions are seen in his talks on Christian ideals and religion in politics for the National Free Church conference and a Wesleyan meeting.

He described himself as "a sort of half-educated fellow who never stops learning"; but I wonder if there are any more exquisite passages in

modern English literature than are to be found in his address to the Classical Association on his debt to the classics. It was in the Roman qualities of piety and gravitas and the truth of the spoken word that he saw the foundation of European civilization.

Baldwin was three times Prime Minister, and perhaps the dominant figure in politics between the two wars; yet there is no statue or memorial to him in the Palace of Westminster. In the Members' Lobby of the Commons there are two empty plinths, the other six being occupied by Churchill, Lloyd George, Jo Chamberlain, Asquith, Bonar Law and, most recently, Attlee.

In December last year I

tabled an Early Day motion that "a statue of Stanley Baldwin be placed in the Members' Lobby," which has attracted 108 signatures. Among the sponsors of my motion are Sir Harold Wilson, Edward Heath and James Callaghan. So far, however, only three Labour MPs have signed.

Baldwin's reputation has suffered from what could be called the Churchillian interpretation of history, and it is true that relations between them were never especially close. But to accuse Baldwin of appeasement is to confuse Stanley with Neville, and to place upon the first half of the 1930s blame that properly lies upon the second.

In fact Baldwin's reputation is unassailable. It rests

upon three major achievements: he helped to turn the Labour Party from being a revolutionary party into a constitutional one; he met and overcame the challenge of the General Strike of 1926, and by his skilful handling of the Abdication crisis probably saved the Monarchy.

Of the six who already stand in the Members' Lobby, only two, Churchill and Lloyd George, can claim, by their prowess in war, to have made a greater contribution to the state.

It is disappointing that, so far at least, the Labour Party has been so ungenerous towards Baldwin. His socialist friends, like Ellen Wilkinson, are long since dead and it is true to say, that whenever references occur in

Baldwin's speeches to the Labour Party, they are studiously charitable and courteous, though there was fuel for quarrels a plenty. Conciliation was his constant aim.

Baldwin held for many years a very strong place in the affections of a people of all parties, and that I am sure, was because they knew from the early days of his premiership that service to the nation was his overriding purpose.

He took his party seriously, enough to simply because he saw it as a necessary instrument to serve that purpose. This was the pervasion of a great speech of his on Democracy and the Spirit of Service which he made in December 1924 in the Albert Hall to members of the victorious Conservative Party:

"I want to see the spirit of service to the whole nation the birthright of every member of the Unionist Party, Unionist in the sense that we stand for the union of those two nations of which Disraeli spoke; union among our own people to make a nation of our own people at home, which if secured, nothing else matters in the world... You cannot better serve your party, and through your party, your country, than in dedicating your lives to that service."

Lady Lorna Howard, his daughter, tells the story of a hostel for tramps which was run privately by two old ladies in a Worcestershire village. Word spread that it would have to close. Baldwin went to his bank and put through the hostel door an envelope on which was written "from a grateful tramp".

There can be no memorial to Baldwin at Westminster without the support of Labour MPs. Conservatives and Liberals were happy to support Lord Attlee's petrification. Will Michael Foot be as generous? I shall try to persuade him when I meet him this week.

The author is the Conservative MP for Aldershot.

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Geoffrey Smith

Will Sir Geoffrey budget for a vote-winner?

As the Chancellor prepares his Budget he is once again receiving a great deal of economic advice. But what are the political pressures on him this time? One indication that they are considerable was the Prime Minister's speech this week warning that the fall in oil prices limits Sir Geoffrey's room for manoeuvre. This was a deliberate tactic to dampen expectations, which had been rising to the point where whatever the Chancellor did was in danger of seeming an anti-climax.

But despite Mrs Thatcher's essay in pessimism, the political pressures on Sir Geoffrey are still strong. First he will want to avoid a repetition of last year's fiasco in which members of the Cabinet competed in letting it be known how much they disapproved of the Budget.

Last month, when the Cabinet discussed the broad strategy of this year's Budget, it seemed that all would be well. Specific pledges were neither given nor sought, but the general impression was that his proposals would not be such as to send a shudder of horror down the spines of any of his colleagues. Every-one could relax.

Except for Sir Geoffrey, that is, who now has to justify the calm of a Cabinet in which senior Conservatives have noted a considerable measure of rising damp.

In other words, most of Sir Geoffrey's fellow Ministers will be disappointed if there is not some mild refutation.

That wish is still more pronounced on the Conservative backbenches. Opinions vary as to whether the relief should take the form of a reduction in the National Insurance Surcharge, as the CBI recommends, or in taxation, which would be the preference of the Institute of Directors if the Chancellor strays from the rectitude of a neutral Budget. Some Conservative MPs are not particularly worried about what kind of relief there should be, so long as there is some.

The party, quite simply, wants something to cheer. Many Conservative MPs are now decidedly jumpy about their chances of re-election. They want something to steady their nerves. They want to be able to say to their constituency supporters, and to wavering Conservative voters: "Look, Mrs Thatcher always warned that there would be tough times before the economy started to recover. But this is the first sign of spring. Soon summer will be here."

It may seem a little obvious, but Conservative backbenchers are not looking for any subtle messages at the moment. They also believe that a bit of mild refutation from the Government would help to cut the ground from under the Social Democrats.

Much of this sentiment can be attributed to a desire for a psychological boost after what has been a pretty trying

time for any Conservative member. But it is also based on the calculation that there is not much time left.

The electoral calendar has already begun to exercise its tyranny. According to this reasoning, the election will be held in the autumn of 1983, which leaves only two annual Budgets before the party is judged at the polls.

The voters are naturally sceptical of a particularly

generous Budget in the run-up to an election. So if the Chancellor is to offer any comfort in time for it to have electoral effect, he had better start now.

This assessment is entirely logical, but it is based on the assumption that the election must be held in autumn next year. This is now the conventional wisdom in all parties. Mrs Thatcher will hardly want to go to the country

before then, and if she waits until the last moment in the spring of 1984 she will risk being destroyed by another winter of discontent. Look what the unions did to poor Mr Callaghan, and they were supposed to be on his side.

This reasoning may seem logical enough. The last two governments were undermined by conflict with the unions: Mr Callaghan in 1979 and Mr Heath in 1974. Surely no Conservative government would want to risk reviving memories of the three-day week and the battle with the miners?

Yet it can be just as dangerous for politicians as for generals to be dominated in their thinking by the lessons of the last war. Mr Callaghan suffered so much from the winter of discontent simply because the unions were supposed to be on his side.

One of the strong points in Labour's appeal to the electorate is the claim that it is the party that knows how to manage the unions. Indeed, so much is Labour seen as the party of the unions that it usually loses support when the unions are disruptive.

even when the Conservatives are in office.

This rule did not apply in 1974 because the disruption was so far as to threaten the stability of the country. Popular resentment against the unions was replaced by fear. The dominant sentiments of the February 1974 campaign were confusion and a desire for the quiet life. If Mrs Thatcher became embroiled in a conflict that threatened once more to bring the country to a standstill, the electorate would probably again be looking for some way out of the turmoil.

But resentment against the unions is stronger now than it was then, and anything less than another conflict of that severity — a repetition of the 1978-79 winter, for example — would probably damage Labour much more than a Conservative government.

That gave the impression of being resolved. These might seem to be conditions ideally suited to the SDP-Liberal alliance. In those circumstances, however, the SDP, which has been making hawkish noises about the unions, would be better

placed to eat into the Labour vote — which would satisfy the Conservatives well.

It does not follow from this that Mrs Thatcher would be wise to opt now for a 1984 election. If circumstances look favourable in the autumn of 1983 she will surely go to the country then. But she is not hemmed in by the electoral timetable so much as is often supposed. She could afford to run on into 1984 if necessary, which means that there could be two Budgets after this one before the election.

The political case for some mild refutation in this Budget is not that time is running out, but that the Conservative Party needs to be healed. If the refutation is more than mild, Sir Geoffrey will outpace the right, if he does not offer some refutation there just might be the odd defection to the SDP. One or two Conservative members might resign the Whip, if only for a while; and, much more probably, there would be a series of hostile Conservative amendments.

The impression would be conveyed of a party sadly at odds with itself. It is because this Budget has come to assume a symbolic importance within the party that for once it may be more important for the Chancellor to have the correct political balance than to get his economic calculations absolutely right.

Sir Geoffrey: rising damp in the Cabinet



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YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS YOU

One unfortunate effect of the proposal to offer unemployed youngsters adventure training with the armed forces under a scheme to be announced next month, is that the arguments about unemployment will become inextricably, though unwarrantably, entangled with arguments about conscription. Conscription has become a taboo word in the political vocabulary since it was abolished by Mr Macmillan and Mr Duncan Macmillan twenty five years ago. The military consequences of that decision have been obscured by the relative security which we have enjoyed in the world since then, a security costed by the self-satisfaction of the armed forces at being once again left alone with their professionalism. The social consequences of the abolition seem also to have been ignored.

The effect of abolition was to give society a feeling of liberation from something which was felt to smother compulsion and militarism. The easygoing attitude of voluntary service which permeated the British approach to defence recruitment affected society as a whole. "Rights" now take precedence over responsibilities from the cradle through the classroom, to the shop floor and beyond. In such an age the social benefits of conscription have become only the subject of lampoons in novels or of the fashionable resentment of people who think that a nation has no need — let alone a duty — to look to its own security.

Of course the arguments are not all one way, and no politician would dream of basing his election platform on the re-introduction of conscription. Nevertheless the subject should not be examined, and should stop becoming a taboo both for social and strategic reasons, neither of which are in any way connected with the problem of unemployment. The

strategic case for re-examining the Macmillan-Sandys decision to rely solely on small professional armed forces is based on the fact that events are unpredictable and the world is an inherently unsafe place. A policy of deterrence can not be more than a major part of one's defence posture, and its credibility anyway depends on a nation's ability to meet situations created by the kind of breakdown of that deterrence. How and when such a breakdown might occur is not predictable. But we have lived in an era of total strategy for long enough now to know that an emergency, when it comes — and come it will, unless all the lessons of history are to be ignored — will have to be tackled somehow by the whole nation with all its resources, human and industrial, not just its volunteers. We maintain undermanned and overpaid armed forces which delight in their professionalism, and which refuse to contemplate a more modest but more precautionary role as a basis for expansion. Britain, alone of its European allies, relies solely on the market place to recruit enough volunteers to meet the needs of national security. This self-indulgence infects society as a whole, which feels that it has no need to worry about defence, other than to contribute to its cost through general taxation. The system, on military grounds alone, cries out for review.

The abolition of conscription was also a social tragedy. Compulsory service touched almost every family in the land and in touching them served to remind the people that the nation's defences required an effort from all her citizens however inconsequential that effort might be. Secondly with the passing of conscription an ever-dwindling proportion of the population now has knowledge of, or contact with the armed forces. This is a potentially

dangerous state of affairs. It could lead to an alienation between the rest of the population and a tiny coterie of professional military men. The third reason is that universal military service provided a turnstile through which everybody had to pass — butcher, baker, candlestick maker, duke, don and doctor. That system provided some cement in a society only too notorious for its stratifications. It provided a common idiom for people of many different classes, accents and aspirations. Societies lose such a communal identity at their peril.

We would not suggest here that only some kind of military service should be reintroduced; but that the subject should certainly be reexamined in the context of arrangements for some compulsory and universal service which contained a military option, such as occurs, for instance, in France. A short period of compulsory youth service, civilian or military, should not be seen as a palliative to youth unemployment, nor discussed in those terms. It should be seen as an innovation which could help re-create a feeling of community and national identity which threatens to slip away from this country except on rare moments of public enthusiasm. Liddell Hart, that great strategist, abhorred conscription, as one would expect of somebody who was passionately devoted to professionalism. Napoleon, on the other hand, said it "is the vitality of a nation". The subversive effects of inflation, a diminishing sense of social responsibility, and years of diffident leadership have all conspired to loosen the cement in Britain's brickwork. A debate about the need for young people to be conscripted in the service of their country, in a choice of tasks which would be either civil or military, might help put that cement back where it belongs.

NO NEED TO RULE ALL THE AIR WAVES

The Government is expected shortly to announce its plans for a British satellite which would provide two extra television channels within five years, and it is thought likely that both these channels will go to the BBC. If that is the Home Secretary's decision, it will be easy to understand the reasons. The BBC gives the impression at the moment of being under capable management; it is eager to have the extra channels and it knows what it wants to do with them. It proposes to use one channel largely though not solely for repeat programmes and the other for a subscription service which the BBC believes would be a useful earner of revenue.

There is always a natural tendency on the part of any minister to respond to proposals which are put forward with the greatest urgency and conviction. But would this further expansion really be in the best interests of the BBC itself? It is nearly thirty years since the British Broadcasting Company (as it was then called) was formed, and for more than half its life to date the BBC enjoyed a monopoly of broadcasting in this country.

That monopoly was destroyed in one field with the introduction of independent television and then in another with the coming of independent local radio. But in each

instance the BBC has given ground reluctantly. It could not prevent the birth of independent television, but it responded to that competition with the determination to secure at least fifty per cent of the viewing audience. It could not block independent local radio but it was at pains to get in first with a number of local radio stations of its own. It has responded to the prospect of independent breakfast television with plans for a BBC breakfast television service, and now when two more television channels are up for grabs it is eager to get its hands on them.

This thrust for expansion may itself be regarded as a sign of vitality. Each extension, and projected extension, of the BBC's activities can be defended on its merits. But the total effect has been to inflate the Corporation to the point where it has become too unwieldy. Nobody who was starting from scratch to plan the best pattern of broadcasting for Britain would give to one organization, no matter how high-minded or efficient, responsibility for two out of four television channels, all national and regional radio, overseas broadcasting, a share of local radio and half the breakfast television that will shortly be available — never mind about the two more television channels.

This is not an argument for

breaking up the BBC as it now exists. That would do untold damage to a service of high quality simply to fit an organizational blueprint. In any case, it would be a pretty poor blueprint that failed to link overseas broadcasting to television and radio at home because this makes it easier to sustain a position of independence from government in what could otherwise degenerate into a mere propaganda service. But the BBC will have to adjust its thinking to a world in which it can no longer hope to have a stake in every new broadcasting activity.

The Annan Committee said in its report five years ago that it regarded "the next 15 years as an interlude between two eras, in which the swan-song of the era of conventional broadcasting is likely to develop into the prelude to the era of multiplicity of telecommunication services". There are differences of opinion as to how long it will take for this new era to come along. But with satellite television becoming available, it is evident that these two new channels will not be the last additional television outlets in the years ahead. If the BBC is to perform as great a service in the future as it has in the past it will have to think what its role should be when it can have only a distinctive and not a dominating share of the market.

Budget figures

From Professor R. R. Neild and Mr T. S. Ward
Sir, Anyone who looks around can see that the standard of public services has been reduced. Even more striking is the cut in public sector investment: house building, road building and investment by the nationalized industries. Yet Professor Friedman (February 13) and others keep asserting that Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues have failed to cut public expenditure.

The facts are that public expenditure has been cut severely, but those expenditure cuts, together with the tax increases and tight monetary policies imposed by the Government, have had perverse effects. They have reduced real demand and output. That has caused big increases in public expenditure on unemployment and supplementary benefits, loans to nationalized industries and other items where the Government has had little alternative but to compensate for reduced income.

As a result, total public expenditure, boosted in this way, has increased in relation to the GDP, which has been depressed by tight fiscal and monetary policies. Critics of the Government in their own ranks look at this increase and protest. They ignore the recession and the effect of budgetary policy in causing it.

They ignore the well-established proposition that the figures for actual budgetary flows are no indication of budgetary policy because they do not differentiate between two types of change in expenditure and receipts: those caused by changes in policy, those caused by policy changes, ie, changes in tax rates, public-sector prices and expenditure programmes. The way to escape from this middle — a way which has been embraced by Professor Friedman in the past — is to use a measure which explicitly adjusts public expenditure and receipts for variations in GDP from a growth path consistent with constant employment. On that basis, public expenditure in relation to (constant employment) GDP, which stood at 49.5 per cent in 1975, was down to 45.5 per cent by 1978 and has been reduced by the present Government to 42 per cent in 1981-82.

May we plead that Budget figures on a constant-employment basis be produced alongside the traditional figures in this and future Budgets? As we showed in a study published by the Institute of Fiscal Studies in 1978, this can be done without great difficulty. Unlike the corrected figures now used, those on a constant-employment basis would be a guide to the restrictive or expansionary nature of budgetary policy. Thus, it is not so surprising that Britain is in such a deep depression when it is seen that

Hot line

From Mr J. N. Oppenheim
Sir, When it is good, it is very, very good. Yesterday, at noon in Edinburgh, I requested that a telephone be installed as soon as possible and, lo and behold, it was installed and working at 3.25 pm. Your faithfully,
J. N. OPPENHEIM,
10 St Mary at Hill, EC3.
February 24.

A challenging view of trial juries

From his Honour Gilbert F. Leslie
Sir, It is reported (February 23) that in a case at the Old Bailey, in which 15 young blacks are on trial for the murder of a white woman, the jury was "challenged" on the first day. After 40 minutes a jury consisting of three blacks, three Asians and six whites was chosen. On the second day, however, the jury had to be discharged and a new trial begun, because it was disclosed that one of the jurors was related to one of the counsel in the case.

Before a second jury was chosen no fewer than 26 jurors were "challenged" (including white members of the first jury) and a similar time was taken up. The second jury was composed of five blacks, five whites and two Asians. As the law is at present, an accused person is able to "challenge" three jurors peremptorily and thus prevent them from hearing his case. He gives no reasons. His counsel, or he himself, merely says "challenge" as the juror is about to take the oath or affirm, and the juror has to leave the jury-box. But in the course of many years' experience at the Bar and on the Bench, on the North-Eastern Circuit (1932-62 less the war years) I never saw a juror peremptorily challenged, and I heard of only one case in which that right had been exercised. Counsel and defendants accepted what they regarded as "the luck of the draw".

In 1965, when I first presided at a criminal court in London, I was consequently very much surprised to find that "challenges" were common in the metropolis. So far as I could tell, between then and my retirement in 1980, they are usually made because defending counsel thinks that the juror may be intelligent or because the juror is white or a woman.

In view of what goes on in the London courts I have formed the strong opinion, and I know that many experienced judges agree, that peremptory challenges should be abolished. If for any reason it would be unfair for a particular juror to adjudicate in a particular case, the objection should be stated in open court in the presence of the juror and be ruled upon by the judge. I believe that the law should be reformed in this way without delay.

I also believe that the law relating to the qualifications of jurors should be re-examined; but that is another story. Yours faithfully,
GILBERT F. LESLIE,
Reform Club, SW1.
February 24.

'Sale' of Oxford places

From Dr and Mrs B. Ward-Perkins
Sir, The case of Wadham College accepting two students sight unseen (report, February 19), merely on the basis of a £500,000 offer from outside the college, has caused interesting reactions in Oxford. In particular there seems to be a prevalent attitude that this is a harmless way of raising much needed money "for the greater good", since it involves foreign students outside the government-imposed quotas for British and EEC nationals.

However, we should like to point out that, long before quotas were introduced, this kind of sale, had it involved British students, would have been considered an unacceptable affront to Oxford's meritocratic ideals. It is not a worrying case of double morality, and furthermore insulting to the foreign countries involved, that we are prepared to do for them what we would not do for ourselves? Yours etc.,
BRYAN WARD-PERKINS,
KATE WARD-PERKINS,
As from: Trinity College, Oxford.

A dacoit at bay

From Dr Jane M. Renfrew
Sir, Trevor Fishlock's account of Malkhan, the present day dacoit "king" in the Chambal Valley (February 15), prompted me to refer to some notes made by my grandfather, Sir Robert Ewenbank, about his capture of another notorious dacoit, Jotia Sardar, in Sanjeli State some time before the First World War, which may be of interest.

Dacoity has been more of less stamped out in British India, but it survived here and there in corners of Rajputana, and Jotia Sardar had created a reign of terror in some independent native states to the north. Once he entered Sanjeli State, which was in my grandfather's charge, he had to be tackled and law and order restored. Sardar's procedure was to visit a village unexpectedly, accompanied by two or three of his gang, and to order a good supper — meat, rice, something sweet, and a bottle of country liquor — followed by a bed and a woman if the headman refused he would walk through the village swinging his sword and lopping off the heads of any children who happened to come in his way, as a foretaste of what might follow. After a couple of nights of Sardar terrorising the inhabitants of Sanjeli State, having murdered several young women, my grandfather would tackle him. With a police force of only six sepoy to help, he enlisted the assistance of all the men of this small state to spread out along the border at dawn armed with any weapons they could lay their hands on — rusty old swords and spears, flintlocks and even bows and arrows — and at given signal to start beating their way towards the centre, examining all possible hiding places as they went. At first a large number of panthers were disturbed, but

European Court judgment on caning

From Mr Edward Baker
Sir, I have not seen the full text of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in *Campbell and Cosans v UK*, in which I was one of those representing the first applicant when the matter was before the Commission at Strasbourg, but the summary you print today (February 26) hardly seems to justify your leading article's conclusion that the court "specifically refused to find caning degrading treatment or punishment".

The court has apparently adopted the view, previously expressed by the Commission, that in a case where the applicants' own children were never actually subjected to corporal punishment, and where no medical evidence was produced of the finding suffering psychological or other adverse effects, the mere risk or threat of such infliction, that risk or threat could not by itself involve breach of article 3.

The article 3 implications of the actual use of corporal punishment are understood to be raised in a number of applications presently still *sub judice* at Strasbourg. The question also arose in a case which the Commission disposed of last year under its so-called "friendly settlement" procedure (Case of

Mrs X v United Kingdom, report adopted by the Commission on December 17, 1981).

In the latter case the British Government compromised an article 3 claim arising from a school punishment of "a few strokes of the cane" by paying £1,200 damages to the applicant and undertaking to issue a circular (the text of which, I believe, has still to be approved by the Commission) advising local education authorities in the United Kingdom "that the use of corporal punishment might in certain circumstances amount to treatment contrary to article 3 of the Convention".

The obligations which the Government has thereby undertaken under international law would appear to be unaffected by the court's decision in *Campbell and Cosans v United Kingdom*. It should perhaps also be emphasized that a friendly settlement arrived at by the parties to one particular dispute on the basis of respect for human rights as defined in the Convention, it does not affect the right of other complainants to have their cases heard.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD BAKER,
23 Salisbury House,
London Wall, EC2.
February 26.

Vatican relations

From the Reverend R. T. Beckwith
Sir, The announcement, now some weeks old, that ambassadors were to be exchanged with the Vatican raises one important point which I have not yet seen discussed.

Since the announcement was made without any prior discussion in Parliament, the Government is presumably working on the assumption that it has the legal power to exchange ambassadors without any further legislation to authorise it. The question is, however, has it in fact this power?

When the question of exchanging ambassadors was first mooted, as long ago as 1848, it was envisaged that such a step might be contrary to the Bill of Rights (1689) and the Act of Settlement (1700). Consequently, an "Act for enabling her Majesty to establish and maintain diplomatic relations with the Sovereign of the Roman States" was passed in that year.

However, in 1875 the 1848 Act was repealed, but the Papal States having lost their independence five years earlier. The Act had never, in fact, been implemented, because of the stipulations it made about the kind of ambassador from Rome who would be acceptable, and the British Government had continued to be represented there by an unofficial agent. Even before the Vatican regained its independence as a state under the Lateran Treaty of 1929, unofficial diplomatic representation of the same kind was

resumed, and an Apostolic Delegation was sent from Rome to England in 1938, as to other countries which (to quote Addis and Arnold's *Catholic Dictionary*) "have no regular diplomatic relations with the Holy See". No legislation was introduced into Parliament to authorise this, since none was thought necessary where the diplomatic relations were unofficial.

The proposal now, however, is that the relations should be made official, and ambassadors exchanged. In 1848 an Act of Parliament was thought necessary to make such a step lawful. The Act was subsequently repealed and no further such act has been passed. It appears, therefore, that the action which the Government is contemplating is unlawful *ultra vires*.

Yours faithfully,
R. T. BECKWITH,
Lattimer House,
131 Banbury Road,
Oxford.
February 15.

Lead in petrol

From Dr Richard Axton
Sir, If the government were to set a lower rate of tax on lead-free petrol and their cars would soon be converted. The motor manufacturing industry might even benefit from the breath of fresh air. Yours faithfully,
RICHARD AXTON,
Christ's College,
Cambridge.
February 24.

Human factor

From Sir Ian Gilmour, MP for Wokingham and Amersham (Conservative)

Sir, Unemployment is one of the greatest social and economic tragedies, and at present there are some million unemployed in this country. Yet you managed to write a leading article on the forthcoming Budget today (February 25) without once mentioning unemployment. Even though our must hope that not many readers of *The Times* are on the dole, that was surely a remarkable omission?

Yours faithfully,
IAN GILMOUR,
House of Commons.
February 25.

Sotheby's Belgravia

From Mr C. D. Llewellyn
Sir, Mr Lee's letter (February 25) is disingenuous. Sotheby's Belgravia, as he must know, is emphatically not closing down. Its very success as a business has led to negotiations for the acquisition of larger space adjoining our headquarters at Bond Street to accommodate Sotheby's Belgravia's need for expansion.

This space has happily become available to us two years earlier than expected. Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM D. LLEWELLYN,
Chief Executive,
Sotheby Parke Bernet and Co.,
34-35 New Bond Street, W1.
February 26.

around lunchtime the beaters came to some caves at the foot of a tall rock face and proceeded by a narrow, winding defile. My grandfather edged his way forward alone, pressing against the side of the defile.

As soon as the dacoits saw him a couple of blunderbusses charged with old nails, bits of stone and glass were let off with a tremendous explosion. Having thus drawn their fire, my grandfather tried a new line of approach. The onlookers were set to work to gather dry wood and to throw it over the cliff to make a huge bonfire at the mouth of the cave. Once this was lit it soon scorched them out.

My grandfather, with a sepoy on either side, knelt where the defile debouched on the hillside. First of all a wild-looking dacoit came tearing out of the gorge brandishing a pistol. The two sepoy fired at once and killed him. Then came a second ruffian also flourishing a pistol, the fojdar (sergeant) with the small force shot him in the shoulder, but neither was Jotia Sardar.

After a minute a really horrific figure with a muzzle-loading pistol in each hand and a quantity of daggers and assorted ironmongery stuck in his belt, came bounding towards them; he fired at my grandfather and knocked off his top, rushed at him and took a flying leap over his head. A sepoy caught Sardar in mid-air with a great swing of his sword, and cut his Achilles tendon, which brought him crashing to the ground.

Sardar was taken back to the local town tied on to my grandfather's horse and surrounded by an uproarious crowd surging round. He was then passed on to higher authority and duly dealt with. Yours sincerely,
JANE M. RENFREW,
5A Chaucer Road,
Cambridge.

Mr Jeremy Thorpe and Amnesty

From Mr David Astor and others
Sir, Human rights are being abused throughout the world under widely differing political systems. We believe the world needs an independent body of unassailable integrity to expose these official abuses. It must be impartial, disinterested, and of impeccable judgment. We have supported the efforts of Amnesty International because its work for the oppressed has been conducted in this manner. We are therefore disturbed by the damage done to Amnesty International that may be caused by the announcement of Mr Jeremy Thorpe's appointment to head its British section. In our view, after all the mistakes in which he has been involved in recent years, his appointment could seriously harm the work of Amnesty International. Mr Thorpe has shown himself to be a man of unsound judgment.

Mr Thorpe was chosen by the governing body of the British Section of Amnesty; that body is now responsible to Amnesty's members and supporters throughout this country. We believe that all those who share our view should join in making their opinion unequivocally known to the governing authority of the British Section.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ASTOR,
PATRICIA HEWITT,
RICHARD HOGGART,
PETER REDDAWAY,
JILL TWEEDIE,
MICHAEL ZANDER,
9 Cavendish Avenue, NW8.
February 25.

Saving bird habitats

From the Director, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Sir, Your profile of the Forestry Commission (February 22) states that the conservationists "know that they need sites for golden plover's nests so they know that they are against deforestation". Not so. There is ample room for further forestry in many parts of upland Scotland; the point at issue is the choice of sites. In Wales and England much less plantable land remains. In Wales a substantial proportion is known to be the best land for forestry; important upland bird communities, including the golden plover.

In northern England and Scotland the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Nature Conservancy Council are undertaking major survey programmes to pinpoint sensitive upland areas and identify the habitat requirements of bird species at risk. But it will require a commitment from forestry interests if integration is to be successful.

So far as existing state for forests are concerned, we are particularly pleased that the commission has embarked on work, in conjunction with our society, to produce detailed guidelines which will enable bird conservation objectives to be taken properly into account in future forest management.

However there are still areas where serious differences of opinion exist, notably over the management of the country's remaining semi-natural woodlands. Of particular concern are the remnants of Caledonian pine forest: the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds is deeply concerned by the apparent failure of the native pinewood scheme, administered by the Forestry Commission, to secure the clearance of mature woodland on Speyside which is the prime habitat for Britain's only endemic bird, the Scottish crossbill, and two pinewood specialists, the redstart and capercaillie.

Yours faithfully,
IAN PREST,
Director,
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,
The Lodge,
Sandy, Bedfordshire.
February 23.

University funding

From the Provost of University College London

Sir, Your report of last Wednesday's preliminary discussion by the Senate of the University of London of the University College application for direct UGC funding may perhaps be misunderstood. Such a statement as "not a single head of college spoke in favour" might be taken to imply that at least one spoke against the proposal. In fact, no heads of the other colleges, schools and institutes of the university contributed to this preliminary discussion as they will be having a separate exchange of views on the matter at the Collegiate Council. The discussion at Senate was well balanced, although student members of Senate (not from University College) made a number of speeches against the proposal. JAMES LIGHTHILL, Provost, University College, W.C.1.
February 26.

All in a mess

From Major C. P. Good
Sir, A recently arrived circular has provided us with some light relief. It was addressed to Mr C. P. Good, commenced "Dear Mr Mess," and wished to know whether Mr. Mess thought it worth investing 40p per week to get the world's most quoted magazine. Even at this reduced price we think that we shall save our money. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
C. P. GOOD,
Officers Mess,
1st Battalion The Duke of Wellington's Regiment,
BFPO 811.
February 16.

Saturday Review



The miracle of Fish Lake

By Brian Aldiss



John Fowles has described Brian Aldiss's new novel, *Helliconia Spring* (part one of the *Helliconia* trilogy) as "the beginning of a new journey to another world — a remarkable feat of the imagination". Already comparisons have been made with Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* cycle.

Aldiss made his reputation with two outspoken and best-selling novels, *The Hand-Reared Boy* and *A Soldier Erect*. But he is best known as one of our most innovative science fiction writers. In working out how people would survive on *Helliconia*, and what the flora and fauna would be like, he consulted scientists: Iain Nicolson on astronomy, Dr Peter Cattaneo on biology, Dr Desmond Morris on biology. The novel reveals a new solar system — and a world disturbingly analogous to our own.

his view, intending to shout at the top of his voice and awaken all the echoes in the wilderness. But the enemy was already in view. Now, too late, he understood why they had seen no more wandering Borliensians; they had been driven off. He stood paralysed before the sight of humanity's ancient enemy.

The women struggled at one end of the fish-shaped lake, the ancipitals grouped at the other. The women made frightened and uncertain movements; the ancipitals were motionless. Even in their surprise, the women responded individually; the phagors could only be seen as a group.

ing; their harneys said "Forward." The sight of thirty human gillots at their mercy decided them. They charged. One of the three mounted brutes swung a sword above his head. With a churring cry, he kicked his kaidaw, and mount and rider burst forward. The other brutes followed as one, whether mounted or running. Forward they dashed — into the waters of the shallow lake.

Panic scattered the women. Now that their adversary was almost on them, they ran hither and thither between the ridges. Some climbed one side, some the other, making small sharp noises of despair, like birds in distress.

Only Shay Tal remained where she was, facing the charge, and Vry and Amin Lim clung to her in terror, hiding their faces. "Run, you fool woman!" bellowed Aoz Roon, coming down the ridge at a run. Shay Tal did not hear his voice above the shrieks and the furious splashing. She stood firm at the end of the fish lake and flung out her arm, as if gesturing to the phagor horde to halt.

Then the transformation. Then the moment that ever after in the annals of Oldorondo would be referred to as the miracle of Fish Lake. Some claimed later that a shilling note rang through the frosty air, some said a high voice spoke, some vowed Wutra struck.

The whole group of marauders, sixteen in number, had entered the lake, led by the three mounted stallions. Their rage drove them into the alien element, they were thigh deep in it, churning it up with the fury of their charge, when the entire lake froze.

One moment it was an absolutely still liquid, lying, because undisturbed, unfrozen at three degrees below freezing point.

The next moment, disturbed, it became solid. Kaidaws and phagors all were locked in its embrace. One kaidaw fell, never to rise again. The others froze where they were, and their riders froze with them, hemmed in ice. The stallions behind, brandishing their arms — all were trapped, held in the grip of the element they had invaded.

None took as much as one further step. None could fight free to gain the safety of the shore. Soon, their veins froze within their bodies, despite the ancient biochemistries that coloured their bloodstream and protected it from the cold.

Their coats, white coats, became further sheathed in rime, their glaring eyes frosted over.

What was organic became one with the great inorganic world that ruled.

He comes on alternate Mondays in winter, starting and stopping the deliveries when he himself decides, in accordance with the weather. He drops the logs into the shed, pushes his account through the door, closes the gate. He rarely speaks and his cap is always backwards. I thought he had a low opinion of us and our overfed, hearth-rug cats. But at Christmas there was a gift, a great cherry log, with a sprig of holly stuck into the bark, left outside the back door. It burned evenly and steadily, as sweetly as the most fragrant pipe tobacco, scenting the whole house, and I was secretly pleased to discover from George and Nance that Mr Ash only hands out those to a few, favoured customers.

These articles are edited extracts from *The Magic Apple Tree* by Susan Hill, to be published by Hamish Hamilton on April 29.

"Suppose," Brian Aldiss writes, "that Earth took not a year of 365 days to complete its orbit of the sun, but a much longer time; suppose it took, to be precise, the equivalent of 2,592 years — would not almost everything we know be transformed?"

In Aldiss's new novel, *Helliconia Spring*, the planet of *Helliconia* is minutely observed by Earth Observation Station, in which a young boy called Yuli founds a city called Oldorondo. His descendants, while coping with great climatic changes, build up a civilization of a kind and beat off attacks from the phagors, Oldorondo's original inhabitants — a half-breed of half-breed of half-breed with long white hair, horns and gruesome yellow blood. The action takes place over centuries.

Mankind and the phagors are enemies, yet co-dependent. The humans can take the heat, and the thick-coated phagors the intense cold. The Great Year of 2592 years is a kind of mirror, each rival species dominating in turn.

What happens when a human race, the phagors, competes for supremacy with humanity? How is that competition resolved when nature requires both species to survive if either is to do so? In this extract, the humans, led by Aoz Roon, Shal Tay and Laintal Ay, rout the phagors — with the help of a "miracle".

Characters and terms

in order of appearance

Freyr-dawn Freyr and Batalix are the two stars around which *Helliconia* orbits in a binary system. Aoz Roon the empire-builder who rules Oldorondo. Shal Tay an early feminist who founds an "academy of learning". Dol Sakil Aoz Roon's woman. Eline Tal Shay Tal's maid. Laintal Ay a descendant of Yuli's who represents gentleness and humanity. Borliensians neighbouring human nation — the enemy across the river. Tanth Ein Aoz Roon's lieutenant. Wutra god of the skies. Ancipitals phagors (the species with two sharp edges — from their two-edged horns). Kaidaws yak-like but fast steeds. Harneys adult female phagor. Vry an apprentice sorceress. Amin Lim attendant of Vry. Stallions adult male phagors. Oyre daughter of Aoz Roon. Dathka silent friend of Laintal Ay.

Next Freyrdawn, the town was aroused by Aoz Roon's angry shouting. The women, scuffling into their boots to go to work, listened in dismay, and woke their menfolk. Aoz Roon was taking a leaf from Shay Tal's book.

"Out you come, damn you all! You're going to fight the phagors today, every one of you! I set my resolve against your idleness. Rise, rise, all of you, get up and fight. If phagors are to be found, then phagors you will fight. I fought them single-handed, you scum can fight them together. This will be a great day in history, you hear me, a great day, even if you all die!"

As the dawn clouds scudded bleakly overhead, his great figure in its black furs stood on top of the tower, fist waving. With his other hand, Aoz Roon clutched a struggling Dol Sakil, who fought and yelled to get out of the cold. Eline Tal loomed behind him, grinning feebly.

"Yes, we'll slay the milk-struck phagors according to the women's plan — you hear that, you idle quemes of the academy? — we'll fight according to the women's plan, for good or ill, I carry it out to the letter. By the original boulder, we'll see what happens today, we'll see whether or not Shay Tal talks sense, we'll see what her prophecies are worth!"

A few figures were emerging in the lane, clattering through the thin ice, staring up at their lord. Many clutched each other timidly, but old Rol Sakil, mother of Dol, cackled and said, "He must be well developed, yelling like that — that's what our Dol said he was. Bawls like a bull!"

He came to the edge of the parapet and glared down at them, dragging Dol with him, still shouting. "Yes, we'll see what her words are worth, we'll test her. We'll test Shay Tal in battle, since you all seem to think so much of her. Do you hear me, Shay Tal? We'll make or break today, and blood shall flow, red or yellow."

He spat down at them, and then withdrew. The trapdoor slammed after him as he climbed back into his tower.

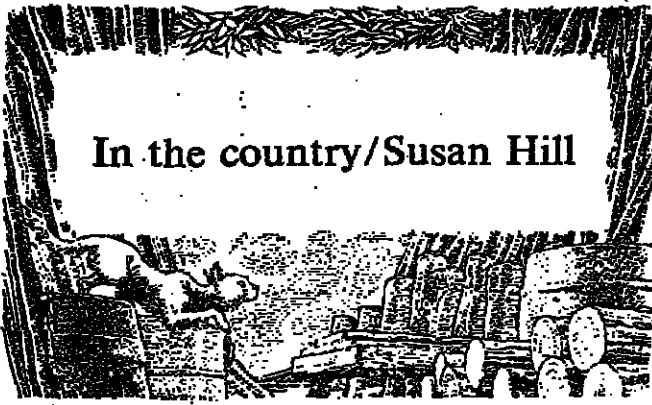
women were unaccustomed to walking distances that meant nothing to the men. They came at length to the broken plain from which Laintal Ay's hunting party had sighted the Borliensians only two days before the Voral flooded. Here lay the series of ridges with shallow flood lakes between, glinting like stranded fish.

They went down into the plain, men first, the women following, in confused groups. All were apprehensive under the hard sky. By the edge of the first flood lake, the women halted, looking at Shay Tal in none too friendly a fashion. They realized the danger of their position, should any phagors arrive — particularly if they came mounted. No amount of anxious glancing about could reassure them on that score, for the ridges restricted their view.

They were exposed to danger and the elements. The temperature remained two or three degrees below freezing. Quiet reigned; the air was hard. The shallow lake lay silent before them. It was some forty metres wide by one hundred metres long, occupying the hollow between two ridges with its unrelenting expanse. Its waters were motionless but still unfrozen, reflecting the sky without a ripple. Its sullen appearance increased a certain supernatural fear which fell upon the women as they watched the hunters disappear over the ridge. Even the grass at their feet, crisped by frost, seemed under a curse, and no birds cried.

The men were unhappy about having their womenfolk nearby. They stood in a neighbouring depression, by another lake, and complained about their leader.

"We've seen no sign of phagors," Tanth Ein said, blowing on his nails. "Let's turn back. Supposing they destroyed Oldorondo while we



Mr Ash, the woodman

"Doesn't answer his door." I went along a scruffy path towards an ugly, green-roofed, pebble-dashed bungalow set in a clearing just in front of the copse, the sort of house that was built just before planning permission, building regulations and green belt conservation got stricter. In front and on two sides was a sort of yard. Old water butts and oil drums and piles of assorted stakes, poles and logs, were littered about. Thin cats streaked away in all directions, and flattened themselves under doors. The net curtains at the windows were yellow, the

paintwork flaking. A dog began to howl, and hurl itself at some closed doors. I knocked once, hurriedly, and when no one came, scribbled my name and address on an old envelope with "Please contact about logs", and pushed it through the letter flap. A snarl on the other side, a body hit the door, and my note disappeared. I ran, determined that I would look elsewhere for my wood supplies.

For two weeks we used anthracite on the stove and I hated it, hated the smell, the smuts, the nasty black piles of the stuff filling the store house. Then, one afternoon, the doorbell rang. "Ash," he said. He wore a cap with the peak at the back of his head, and a raincoat with a piece of knotted string for a belt. String tied up his trousers at the knees. He was small and his face was the colour and texture of dried-out bark. At the top of the steps was a wooden hand-cart with long handles. I began to

explain that we had a greedy stove and would need lorry-loads of logs. He gave me a pitying look. "Wants to sample, doesn't he?"

"Well, yes..." "Let's have a look at 'em." He came inside, opened the top of the stove, blew inside it, banged down the lid. Went outside again, glanced up at the chimney. Nodded. "You don't want nothing green, Tar," he said. "Seven and six," and then another, "Birch," he said. "Nine bob," and then a third, "Apple," he said, "and them's for your hearth, you don't waste apple on that stove. Nine bob."

It is astonishing how completely I have forgotten the L.S.D. system. Seven and sixpence? Nine bob? I don't know how Mr Ash goes on with his shopping for he will have nothing whatsoever to do with the decimal system, and I have a struggle when he leaves the bit of old cigarette packet in the letter box that reads, "Wood £11 17/6."

He comes on alternate Mondays in winter, starting and stopping the deliveries when he himself decides, in accordance with the weather. He drops the logs into the shed, pushes his account through the door, closes the gate. He rarely speaks and his cap is always backwards. I thought he had a low opinion of us and our overfed, hearth-rug cats. But at Christmas there was a gift, a great cherry log, with a sprig of holly stuck into the bark, left outside the back door. It burned evenly and steadily, as sweetly as the most fragrant pipe tobacco, scenting the whole house, and I was secretly pleased to discover from George and Nance that Mr Ash only hands out those to a few, favoured customers.

© Susan Hill, 1982. These articles are edited extracts from *The Magic Apple Tree* by Susan Hill, to be published by Hamish Hamilton on April 29.

New dance/John Heilpern Pleasure more than perfection

In good times or bad, I find it helps to keep dancing (as far as you can), and in a manner of speaking that is just what I have been up to lately.

True, the Dance Theatre of Harlem has been doing all the dancing for me, but that is only to be expected in my condition. My point is, this wonderfully exciting ballet company has this effect on you: it makes audiences feel they are actually taking part in a celebration, a celebration of dance.

And quite suddenly, as the *New York Times* critic Anna Kisselgoff points out, this still young and very special company is on the threshold of another American success story. Dance Theatre of Harlem's five-week season at the City Center in New York has confirmed its unique and extraordinary range (from Petipa to jazz), while it has broken yet more new ground within its eclectic repertoire.

If there were any doubts about it before, the troupe is now a vital creative force in American dance.

For the first time, Dance Theatre of Harlem has emphasized dance-dramas among its premieres. *Streetcar Named Desire* — in an age when most leading companies prefer plotless ballets. At the same time, DTH has not abandoned its George Balanchine heritage. On the contrary, the classical and neo-classical work of its ensemble is among the most precise and disciplined of any company — far superior, in my view, to the ensemble of the American Ballet Theatre. Its performance this season of Balanchine's seminal *Concerto Barocco* could be equalled only by Balanchine's own New York City Ballet.

And that is now to be expected. Arthur Mitchell, who founded DTH with Karel Shook only 12 years ago, was for 20 years a leading member of City Ballet, becoming the first black dancer to be internationally recognised for classical dance. Mitchell drew first from Balanchine and the black heritage of jazz and modern dance; Karel Shook, a graduate of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, added the Ballet Russe staging of *Scheherazade*, *Faust*, and a nice point, a one-act *Swan Lake* — the "white" act.

Dance Theatre of Harlem, begun for social reasons as a form of protest and crusade, has long since proved that blacks can perform classical dance. It has also recently lost three of its stars to other companies, including Mel Tomlinson to City Ballet. Arthur Mitchell tells me it was during their successful season at Covent Garden last



A human X (standing) Virginia Smith, Stephanie Dabney; Johnson

year that the battle of acceptance (and self-acceptance) was in fact well advanced.

Within its classical roots, the company's world premiere of *Firebird* by John Tarras is, above all, a terrific expression of showmanship and fun. But Karel Shook's 1910 ballet for Diaghilev re-choreographed many times since then by Balanchine and Bejart, among others owes little to its Russian past in this version. Geoffrey Holdrege's sets and costumes drip with sensuality.

There is nothing precious about the Harlem dancers. It is rare at the ballet, and most welcome, when audiences feel free to cheer and laugh, to openly enjoy themselves, as audiences did at *Firebird*. It has been said that the company's current repertoire lacks the contemporary masterpiece. Perhaps, but how many Jerome Robbins' are there?

Mr Mitchell reminds us that he runs a Dance Theatre, not a ballet company. DTH is not any one technique or style. For Mitchell, ballet is a style and dance is a theatrical essence. It is how the Harlem dancers are able to switch with ease from the classics to their new dance-dramas.

What they bring to Donny

Paul Griffiths Back to Thirties nostalgia

Well: Silverlake. New York City Opera/Rudel. Nonesuch DB 79003 (2 discs).

One obstacle to the Kurt Weill revival has always been the smallness of the output: what do you go on to after *The Threepenny Opera* and *Mahagonny*? Two years ago the New York City Opera tried out a solution to that problem by taking *Der Silbersee*, a long and complex morality play by Georg Kaiser for which Weill provided music in 1932 and sharpening it up to produce *Silverlake*. This is the version that the Nonesuch label now brings us.

The original Kaiser play is part political allegory, part satire, and the word itself takes long to get around the music circuit. Singers, once established or aspirant, packed their bags with what possessions remained and made their way to Vienna because that was where the quality was to be found.

EMI have some superb archive material of this period, thanks mainly to the influence of the late Walter Legge. He went to Vienna to see the production, and it was his introduction to *Stars of the Vienna Opera*, shortly after the company had come to London in 1947.

That was a visit picked here by the Musicians' Union, to see the production and because of the decision to engage the Vienna Philharmonic.

It was the Vienna Opera too which provided many of the singers for a Covent Garden struggling again to its feet in the late Forties: Patzak, Wiltsch, Lipp and, of course, Schwarzkopf, who was later to marry, all are represented here and, in some instances, with recordings previously unpublished. Lipp's version of the Queen of the Night's two arias

John Higgins Vienna bursts into song

under Furtwangler, in one of her Royal Opera House roles, are new to the catalogue: they come across with easy colouratura though nor much venom.

Ecce was very much part of the Vienna style. Kunz is almost conversational, taking the audience by the lapels, when he plays Papageno or even Figaro. Schwarzkopf and Seefried suggest the same intimacy in the duet for Susanna and the Countess in the third act of *Figaro* — Karajan is the conductor in this exquisite piece of music-making.

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William Mann Different guises

J. S. Bach: Harpsichord Concertos in F, D, G minor Leppard/ECOL. Philips 9500 962, CD 7300 962.

J. S. Bach: Brandenburg Concertos 1-6 Soloists/Berlin RSO/Mazzei. Philips 6527 053 (2 discs); CD 7311 053.

A. Scarlatti: 12 Sonatas. di concerto grosso. Bennett/Smith/Silver/Elton/EMI Music. Philips 6769 066 (2 discs).

J. C. Bach/Mozart/Stamitz/Vanhal: Oboe Quartets. Still/Perlman/Zuckerman/Harrell. EMI ASD 3916.

J. S. Bach is thought to have invented the idea of a solo concerto for harpsichord, with string accompaniment, but all his extant works in that form seem to derive from earlier versions, with another solo instrument, and three or four for Raymond Leppard's record are all well known in such versions, the first as Brandenburg 4, the others as violin concertos in keys a tone higher than here.

You know these originals, you will be fascinated to observe what Bach, in minute musical detail, the embellishments added by Leppard and his colleagues, and how they relate to those appropriate to the originals.

They are all also excellent harpsichord concertos in their own right, as any pianist may discover, as these performances prove. The finale of the F major goes ponderously, and the harpsichord is under-balanced with noisy recorders. The orchestral detail is clear, the performances are otherwise lively and inventive.

Those who prefer a weightier Bach may fancy Lorin Maazel's set of the Brandenburg Concertos. The soloists are fine players, especially Maurice André in No. 2. Maazel employs a full string orchestra, bass-heavy in a cramped acoustic, and lays a

heavy pulse on the music in the quick movements. Nos 3 and 5 are treated as works for large string orchestra. These performances sound more convincing than those of Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic. But the Brandenburgs are chamber, not orchestral, music: if you want the sound of baroque instruments, go to Leonard's set.

The Scarlatti works, really Concerto grosso with a varied concerto each time, are his first serious concern with pure instrumental music, and make less inventive music than most of Corelli or Handel. The diversified instrumentation does link them with Bach's Brandenburgs, and I think make a lively case for them, with bright, strongly rhythmic playing, admirable soloists, and an enthusiasm which finds one winning movement in just about each of the 12 concertos (or symphonies, if you prefer). Our own William Bennett makes his mark in the concerto with flute, and Bernard Soustron contributes strongly to those with solo trumpet, the most colourful.

Ray Still, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's principal oboe, has a delightful disc with starry colleagues, at first in the popular Mozart Oboe Quartet, then ranging into other composers of the same era and less familiar material. Carl Stamitz's Clarinet Quartet in E flat goes unexpectedly well on the oboe, and abounds in ideas about texture and thematic treatment, of which Perlman and Zuckerman make the most, as they do again whenever J. C. Bach prescribes acrobatic string accompaniment to his suave woodwind solos. Still's pungent, rather feigning oboe tone, and elegant artistry, can suggest a flute figure in this work. An eminently civilized anthology, immaculately engineered.

Unlike either of these two works, there is a bewildering choice of available recordings of Mozart's Harp and Posthorn Serenades. Philips presents a reissue and

Hilary Finch French rhapsody

Chausson: Symphony in B flat/Chabrier: Suite Pastorale. Detroit SO/Paray. Mercury SR1 75029.

Mozart: Haffner and Posthorn Serenades. Staatskapelle Dresden/de Waart. Philips 6770 043 (2 discs).

Mahler: Symphony No. 1. Chicago SO/Abbado DG 2532 020.

Dvorak: Cello Concerto No. 1 in A/Polonaise. Saldo/Czech PO/Neumann. Supraphon 1110 2728.

A contemporary once described Ernest Chausson as a man rising from the middle of a dream and taking a step towards real life. His Symphony is more withdrawn yet more wistfully spontaneous, as Rhapsodic yet more hesitant in its outworkings, than Cesar Franck's to which it is often compared; and that combination of delicacy and ardour which Debussy so admirably sensitively realized in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's new recording.

They bring to it a New World freshness and buoyancy with Paul Paray never oversteering its gentle lyricism, but affectionately pointing its clarity of line, its ventilating and capricious accompanying figures. It was pity to split the work between two sides, but this is a delightful coupling with Chabrier's *Suite Pastorale*. Highly original, meticulously and vivaciously imagined tableaux, their lovingly blended paint seems still within their delicately carved classical frames. Ravel, who loved the gently oscillating, almost pointillistic "Sous-bois", would have relished the poise and delicacy of this performance.

Unlike either of these two works, there is a bewildering choice of available recordings of Mozart's Harp and Posthorn Serenades. Philips presents a reissue and

attractive new coupling of both works from earlier recordings by the Dresden Staatskapelle, filling out the spaces with three Marches.

The string playing of this orchestra is as distinctive as ever, radiating sharp light and little vitality in the Haffner where they urge on the sweet, fragile solo violin playing of Ughi. Equally outstanding are the characteristic wind solos in the Posthorn, chuckling through each allegro.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra's new recording, under Abbado, of Mahler's first symphony is not for playing to anyone to whom you are trying to defend Mahler from the charges of vulgarity or wearing his adolescent heart on his sleeve. The player's startling and always compelling virtuosity is directed here to an interpretation which, though instantly stunning, can turn energy to coarse pugnacity, sentiment to almost condescending sentimentality, leaving in the score as the oak will welcome Supraphon's enterprising release of his hitherto embryonic first cello concerto. Dvorak's wisdom in leaving the work unorchestrated becomes ever clearer as it progresses. Like the early piano concerto, a lovely melody will slide up then not know what to do with itself, rambling on amid much notespinning and throat-clearing until ousted by another. Jarl Burghauer's valiant realization and orchestration is played with redeeming enthusiasm and conviction by the Czech Philharmonic who accompany (that is the word) Saldo's tough, dedicated cello playing.

Records of the month

Stars of the Vienna Opera, 1946-53. EMI 205-43 187/9 (3 discs); CD 7300 962.

Wiederbauer: Schwanenlied. Popp / Jerusalem / Frey / Bavarian Radio Orchestra / Wallberg. CBS Masterworks 79344 (3 discs).

Flotow: Martha. Popp / Jerusalem / Frey / Bavarian Radio Orchestra / Wallberg. Eurodisc 25 422 XGR (3 discs).

Wiederbauer: Der Betteleudent. Guden / Konetzni / Schock / Berlin SO / Stolz. Eurodisc 27 187 XDE (2 discs).

The resurgence of operatic life in Vienna was one of the post-war miracles. The city may have looked as bleak and lifeless as Harry Lime himself, but the Opera and its standards flourished in exile at the Theater an der Wien while its own home was being rebuilt. And the word itself takes long to get around the music circuit. Singers, once established or aspirant, packed their bags with what possessions remained and made their way to Vienna because that was where the quality was to be found.

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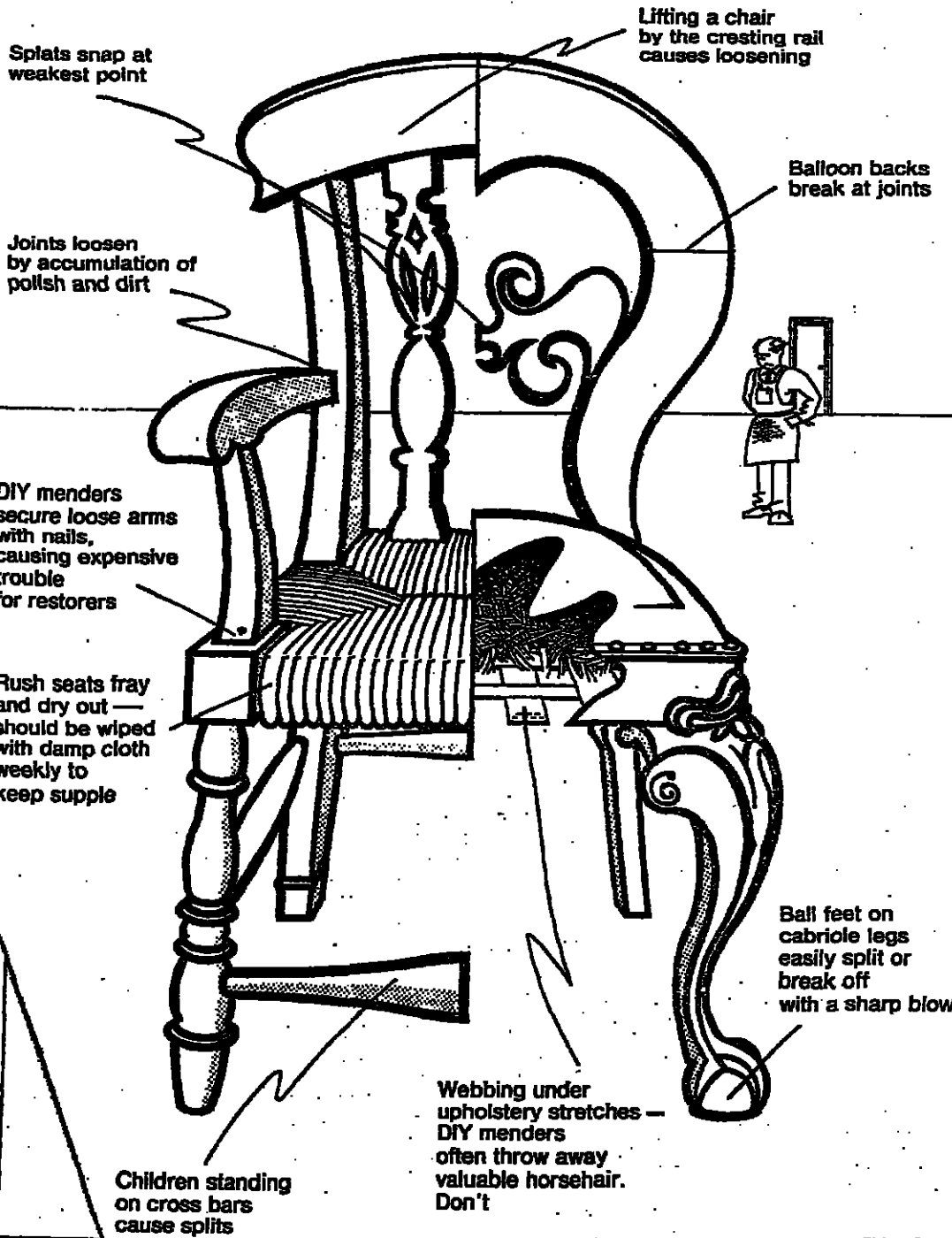
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- **Cumbria:** (R) Miranda Holmes-Smith, Lawson Cottage, Renwick, Near Penrith. (076 883 402). All patterns cane from 17p per hole. More for complicated curved pieces. Can arrange collection from Cheshire to South Scotland.
- **Derbyshire:** (R) Joan Gilbert, 50 Ashbourne Road, Derby. (053 44563). Antique chairs, bedheads, Benares suits refinished. All patterns. Bedroom chairs from £15. English rush seats from £20. No sea-grass or synthetics, work done for stately homes and dealers. No delivery.
- **Hertfordshire:** (R) Centre of Restoration & Art, 20 Folly Lane, St. Albans. (St. Albans 51555). Antique or modern chairs refinished, many patterns and sizes. Traditional 6-way around £18.40. Also blind caning. Team of 12 also restore pictures and antique dolls. Will travel to large commissions.
- **Kent:** Tenterden Rushcraft, Rear of 90 High Street, (Tenterden 3326). All cane patterns from 20p a hole (average seat £16 with heading). Real rush from £35. No synthetic rush from £25. No collection.
- **Merseyside, Liverpool:** (R) Neville Hymus, Wellington Crafts, 70a Oxford Road, Waterloo. (051-920 5511). Bergère specialist. All cane patterns from £8 for bedroom chair seat in standard 6-way; Rush £9.50 to £14. Also sea-grass. Antique and modern. Will collect within 50 miles.
- **London:** (R) Harry Seralian, 79 Morrison Way, Edgware (01-852 6432). Antique or modern chairs refinished in cane from 15p per hole. Any pattern. Will collect within 10 miles.
- **Oxfordshire:** Upton Craft, Upton Stores, Fieldside, Upton, near Didcot. (Blewbury 80263). Ann Denny works in cane from 14p per hole and in English rush from £10 per sq. ft. Hilary Melling reweaves in seagrass from £8.50 for a stool and in various colours of cord from £10.50. Seagrass work repairs can be arranged. Also sea-grass repairs. This a small cooperative with a pleasant helpful community atmosphere. Charges made for collecting.
- **Suffolk:** (R) George Sneed, Bacon's Barn, St. Michael, Bungay. (St. Cross 282). All types of cane from 11p per sq. inch (standard 18p). Traditional English and Continental rush patterns. Seat 17in x 15in £23.50. Delivery anywhere — scale of charges in brochure. Please send for one.
- **Surrey:** (R) P. Dodd, 91 Merton Way, West Molesey, (979 6635). This caning specialist is partially blind and works to recommended RNIB charges. All cane is generally lower than usual. Cane from 13p per hole, rush from 25p per sq. inch. Pressing (already made-up cane) done on modern chairs. No delivery.

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- **Berkshire:** (R) F.W. Child, 78 Kidmore End, Reading. (Reading 482737). Restoration of antique and modern porcelain and papier maché, remodelling and painting. From £5 for a small chip to £30 for a complicated piece. Local collection and delivery.
- **Corwall:** (R) Clare Beauchamp, Trevine, Redruth, Cornwall. (St. Day 820355). Mainly antique porcelain, some enamelware — remodelling and painting. Costs based on time. Local delivery. Pieces accepted by mail.
- **Hampshire:** (R) Just The Thing, High Street, Hartley Wintney. (025 126 3393). Sue Carpenter accepts china repairs at her shop. Mainly antique porcelain, modelling and painting. Minimum charge £5. No delivery.
- **London:** (R) Bonita Emms, 45 Gunterstone Road, W14. (01-603 7105). Mainly antique porcelain, some glass. Figures and remodelling a speciality, mainly for antique dealers, some private clients. Rin chips from £7. Complicated pieces around £75. Will deliver in London area.
- **Gloucestershire:** (R) Griselda Laroche, 63 Cromwell Road, SW7. (01-370 5695). Restoration of porcelain, pottery and marble, antique and modern. Team of five — quick service. Local delivery.
- **London:** (R) Studio 1D, 1 Kensington Church Walk, W8. (01-937 7583). All types of restoration of antique and modern porcelain, invisible mending and modelling, also visible conservation for museums. From £2 a chip. No delivery. Also run a week-long beginners' course at £180 — four a year, next one starts April 26.
- **Middlesex:** (R) Kate Lane Roberts, 38 Bridgeman Road, Teddington. (01-977 8655). Mainly porcelain, some glass and enamel. Remodels and repaints. Chips from £5, figurine repairs around £30. Delivery in London.
- **Scotland:** (R) Mrs R.M. Wilson, Maid Marich's Workshop, Baledgarno Farm House, Inchture, Perthshire. (Inchture 245). Antique and modern porcelain and pottery. Remodels and paints. Small chips from £5. No delivery.



leathers — "antique restorers first, cabinet makers second". Delivery within 60 miles.

● **Cleveland:** Amos Swift & Co, Boat House Lane, Stockton-on-Tees. (0642 65241). A company of wood turners who turn chair legs, finials, baluster rails, bed posts to match existing ones or to specification. No actual repairs, but useful for anyone needing spare parts.

● **Devon:** (R) Tony Vernon, 15 Follet Road, Topsham, Exeter. (Topsham 4635). All antiques restored. Will reweave, refinish, French or wax polish. Also a cabinet maker and joiner who will rebuild, whatever the condition of the piece. Delivery within 50 miles of Exeter.

● **Dorset:** R. C. Bagnall, Dorset Antique Restorer, Stables Farm, Bradford Peverell, Dorchester. (Martinstown 312). General restoration work on all types of antique furniture, including gliding, jannapping, lacquering and marquetry. Boulle work a speciality. Delivery within 25 miles.

● **Dorset:** (R) Timothy Dewey, e Cottage, Keilton, Bath. (Bath 26810). Will do "anything in wood". Restorations to antique for BADA dealers within miles, but also tackles "the old kitchen chair" for private clients when required. Will travel 70 or 80 miles if the piece is interesting.

● **Berkshire:** (R) G. Reese, Church House, East Grafton, Burghage, near Newbury. (Burghage 810394). Restoration of all kinds of antique furniture. French polishing, replaces desk

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- **London:** (R) Caroline Bosly, 13 Princess Road, NW1. (01-722 7608). Major repairs and cleaning of all types of hand-made Oriental rugs and carpets. Rock-bottom prices, so no visiting, but can arrange for large items to be picked up.
- **Dorset:** J. T. H. Green, Whitcombe Farm, Beaminster. (Beaminster 862366). Repairs to Oriental rugs up to 11ft x 5ft — not carpets. Sides and ends repaired from £50. Holes worn by cats repaired. Charges depend on complexity. Will travel anywhere or go to Beaminster and "ask for the retired doctor" — everyone within 20 miles will know where to point you.
- **London:** (R) Richard Holmes, Homeview, 1 Baronsmead Road, Barnes, SW13. (01-748 6816). Furniture of any period restored. Cabinet work, will turn simple legs, no upholstery. Specialist in chairs. Delivery in Central London area.
- **Northumberland:** (R) Ron Archer, Glenwhetl Coach House, Greenhead. (Gillstane 212). All aspects of high quality antique restoration — gliding, carving, polishing, metalwork — can rebuild a piece completely. Favourite period, walnut of the 1720s. Works for dealers and private clients. Delivery according to importance of piece.
- **Oxfordshire:** (R) The Desk Shop, 41 St Clements, (Oxford 45524). Restoration of desks and other antiques by Cavendish Reproductions. Remove plinths, missing drawers, reattach insets and tooling, old handles and knobs matched. Reupholstering of 4ft x 2ft pedestal desk from £45. Will travel all over south-east. Delivery arranged anywhere.

- **Scotland:** (R) John D. Blackwood, 36 Main Street, Doune, Perthshire. (Doun 684). High quality restoration, mainly of Georgian and Queen Anne furniture for dealers, but has private clients as well. Delivery within 50 miles.
- **Somerset:** Castle House Antiques, Bennetts Field, Wincanton. (0963 33884). High class restoration and cabinet making, inlaid veneer, lacquer, boulevards. Will collect and deliver all over south.
- **Suffolk:** (R) Roy Clement-Smith, Mendlesham Furniture Workshop, Elms Farm, Mendlesham. (Mendlesham 7107). All restoration to antique furniture including re-upholstery and some French polishing. Makers of reproductions of the Mendlesham chair, first produced in the village 200 years ago — now hand-made in fruitwoods for £240. Collection by arrangement within 20 miles.
- **Sussex:** (R) B. A. Robinson, Archway Antiques, 42 High Street, Hursley, (0273 832741). Restoration of antique, wax polished furniture. No upholstery. Wax and French polish, some inlay. Free estimates within 5 miles, or travelling expenses.
- **West Midlands:** Regency House, 218 Maryvale Road, Bourneville, Birmingham. (021-458 3391). Restoration, including cabinet work and upholstery, antique furniture and clocks, cases and movements. Also modern furniture, rush and cane, glass resilvering. Can arrange for picture restoration, oils and watercolours. Delivery within 10 miles — farther for important pieces.
- **Yorkshire:** (R) Mervyn and Angela Slater, Old Mill, Silver Street, Askring, (Wensleydale 50354). Repairs and restoration of antique and modern furniture. Upholstery mended and replaced, repairs to legs and backs. Repair of bedheads, screens, piano stools — "Willing to tackle most things." Delivery within 30 miles.

Oriental rugs

- **London:** (R) Caroline Bosly, 13 Princess Road, NW1. (01-722 7608). Major repairs and cleaning of all types of hand-made Oriental rugs and carpets. Rock-bottom prices, so no visiting, but can arrange for large items to be picked up.
- **Dorset:** J. T. H. Green, Whitcombe Farm, Beaminster. (Beaminster 862366). Repairs to Oriental rugs up to 11ft x 5ft — not carpets. Sides and ends repaired from £50. Holes worn by cats repaired. Charges depend on complexity. Will travel anywhere or go to Beaminster and "ask for the retired doctor" — everyone within 20 miles will know where to point you.

Pearls and beads

- **Dorset:** Mrs J. W. Phillips, 7 Brownsea Road, Sandbanks, Poole. (Canford Cliffs 709800). Beads and imitation pearls re-threaded from £1.50 per row. Some matching done where possible. Cultured and real pearls also re-threaded, not matched.
- **London:** Sloane Pearls, 49a Sloane Street, W1. (01-235 9163). Cultured, freshwater and real pearls (no pearl beads) re-threaded from £4.50 without knots, £5.50 with knots, 16in length. Also graduated pearl necklaces re-styled and interspersed with other semi-precious beads and crystals. Selection of antique and modern clasps.

Pictures

- **Dorset:** (R) Gordon Barrett, 23 Charles Street, Dorchester. (0305 63422). Three-generation family

business with customers as far afield as Belgium and France. Gordon Barrett has 52 years' experience of oil and watercolour restoration. Work done for museums and famous collections.

● **London:** Kate Colleran, 17 Farnham, NW3. (01-435 4652). Conservator of works of art on paper — prints, drawings and watercolours. All materials used are conservation approved. Sixteenth century hand coloured maps onwards. Author of booklet *The Collector's Guide to Prints and Drawings*, to be published by the Royal Watercolour Society next month.

● **Surrey:** (R) Guildford Galleries Ltd, Cranley Court, 59 Cranley Road, Guildford. (Guildford 61646). Cleaning, restoration, conservation of watercolours, drawings and prints. Victorian watercolour, 16in x 20in from about £30. Customers seen by telephone appointment only.

● **Sussex:** Brunswick House, 50 Grand Parade, Brighton. (Brighton 603388/9). John Cavell is an art dealer who also cleans, relines, restores reframes oils and watercolours, mainly from eighteenth century to 1950s. Reckons to be a lot cheaper than a lot of people. Visits in Sussex and Surrey without charge.

Textiles

● **London:** Anna Christian Textile Workshop, 18 Artesian Road, W2 (01-229 2855). All old textiles, wall hangings, clothes. Some tapestry work (not the finest). Has a vast stock of all silks, velvets, tapestries from eighteenth century and will make cushions from them. Visits in London area.

Jenny Lake Tapestries, 23 Camden Hill Square, W8 (01-789 0376). Conservation and renovation of all forms of quality antique tapestries, small to wall size. Also embroidered hangings. Will travel anywhere to conserve large items.

(R) Lunn's Antiques, 86 New King's Road, Parsons Green, SW6 (01-736 4638). Small repair work undertaken to antique lace bedspreads, cushions, clothes. Also cleaning and removal of iron mould. No travel.

Scott & Clarke, World's End Studios, 134 Lots Road, SW10 (01-352 8950 or 229 8209). Conservation of textiles and tapestries. Cleaning of English stump work, fans, feather clothes. Work for museums, collectors, stately homes. Some visits.

● **Middlesex:** (R) Janet Jowitt, 30 Alexandra Road, Twickenham (01-892 3818). High quality textile conservation to all types, tapestries to lace. Preparation for display of museum quality objects. Darning and mending of christening robes. Trained at Victoria and Albert Museum. The V & A, incidentally, will accept your textiles on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm telling you the importance of the piece and whether they are worth professional conservation.

● **Surrey:** Mrs Pat Jones, 89 Maybury Road, Woking (Woking 63805). Repairs to or remakes of duvets, conversion of old elder-downs, cushions or sleeping bags into continental quilts. Any sizes made, single £25, double £36. Prefers to see customers personally, but will deal by mail. Collection within 20 miles.

Violins

● **Hampshire:** Paul Bickle, The Violin Workshop, Amery Farm, Amery Hill, Alton (04893-5292). Routine adjustments and fittings to violins, violas and cellos and major repair work. No travelling, but undertakes work for London dealers.

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Gardening/Roy Hay Equipped for the job

When this could be done from ground level with a "long arm" pruner. There are various types on the market up to 9ft long; these may also be fitted with a small saw which will cut branches too thick for the pruner blade to cope with.

While there is obviously much to be said for equipping a gardener with machines or tools to enable him to do the work more quickly or with less fatigue, the thoughtful employer will often buy a tool such as an electric hedge trimmer and use it himself — he lets the gardener do the more tedious work of raking up and



carrying away the trimmings. Thinking about trimming and pruning, this year there is obviously going to be a great deal of lopping and cutting out of stems and branches killed by the frosts. We will not know for certain what trees, shrubs or hardy plants have been killed in whole or in part until well into the summer but assuredly there will be much debris to be disposed of — the new Cavendish Electric Shredder is going to be of tremendous help with this work.

Quite often there is no convenient place for a bonfire and if smoke should pour across a road and cause an accident, you would be liable for it. Instead of having to burn all this woody material off to the local council dump, it can all be shredded, swiftly and used either in a compost heap or as a moisture-retaining, weed-suppressing mulch on the garden.

It has a powerful 1600w electric motor, and twigg material up to pencil thickness is fed into the top of the machine to be swiftly shredded and ejected into a plastic bag or other container placed beneath the machine. Branches up to 1in diameter may be fed into a side funnel in the machine and swiftly shredded. We have been fascinated and delighted with the way it has disposed of our garden rubbish.

The shredded material, if used as a mulch, would, I feel,

need to be given a dressing of, say, a handful of sulphate of ammonia to a square yard of a mulch and it is worth a deep to take care of denitrification problems as one would with sawdust or pulverized bark. It costs about £170 and in case of difficulty in finding a local stockist it is distributed by Cavendish Management Ltd., Tudor House, Llanvannor Road, London, NW2 2AR.

This I consider to be the most exciting piece of equipment to appear so far this year and of interest not only for owners of large gardens but of small or medium-sized areas where rubbish disposal is often a real problem.

Many of us sat at the feet of that great gardener Gertrude Jekyll 40 or more years ago and absorbed much wisdom from her informative and delightfully written books. Today they are collectors' pieces. So it is with much pleasure that we welcome a reprint by the Antique Collectors Club of her classic *Wood and Garden* which was first published in 1899. This edition is enhanced by 32 beautiful and apposite colour illustrations and, allowing for changed conditions in availability and the cost of garden labour, Miss Jekyll's advice about so many aspects of the garden is as valid today as it was 80-odd years ago. The plants do not change.

Her approach to naturalness and her revolt against formality have continued unabated over the years, accentuated by two world wars and continuous inflation. So much of her advice may still be followed, perhaps on a less grand scale in smaller areas and with minimal help. The original edition, when you can find a copy, will cost you around £25 to £35. This reprint at £12.50 is a bargain for those who have the imagination to scale down Gertrude Jekyll's ideas to their own situation.

Those may not have been the good old days for the gardeners living on £1 a week but they were great days for gardens.

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Two weeks ago when I was discussing motor mowers I mentioned that I felt sure many large gardens were undercapitalized — that they were making do with inadequate, undersized or old-fashioned equipment.

Now too many gardens I fear the owner or the hired help is wasting time trotting up and down large lawns behind, say, a 14, 17 or even 18in mower when he really ought to be using one several sizes larger. Remember, about up to one-third of the time spent cutting a lawn may be taken up by emptying the grass catcher — at a rough estimate, if it takes 30 minutes to cut a given area with a 14in machine, it could probably be cut in 24 minutes or less with a 17in machine and possibly in around 18 minutes with a 20in mower.

If you pay somebody to cut your grass it is a simple matter of arithmetic to work out how much a larger machine will save in labour costs and how soon this saving will offset the cost of the larger model. For example, if it takes three hours to cut your grass (and you would normally cut it 24 times a year) this adds up to 72 hours' cutting time. If your garden help costs £3 an hour, the grass mowing for the season costs £216.

If you buy an Atco 14in machine it costs £235 — a difference of £110. If you save 40 per cent of the cutting time with the larger machine, you could save about £86, which means you would almost recoup the extra cost of the larger machine in its first and certainly in the second year.

This, of course, does not take into account the increased wear and consequent reduction in the working life of a smaller machine which would be run for much longer periods at each mowing than a larger mower. And larger mower made with professional users in mind are, from an engineering point of view, much stronger and have a considerably longer life.

Then there is the vexed question of moving the lawn trimmings, weeds and debris and later on fallen leaves to the compost heap or bonfire. A time and motion study expert would no doubt quickly work out the cost per trip of a man trotting to and from the rubbish area at several pounds an hour and soon point out that the larger the truck or barrow the more quickly and cheaply the work will be done.

Lightweight metal or plastic trucks and barrows with extension tops are easy to push with a full load of light rubbish — not like the heavy old wooden barrows which were hard work to push empty, let alone full.

Incidentally, I see that one can still buy a large oak wheelbarrow with top boards for £170, but where, I wonder, do you find a

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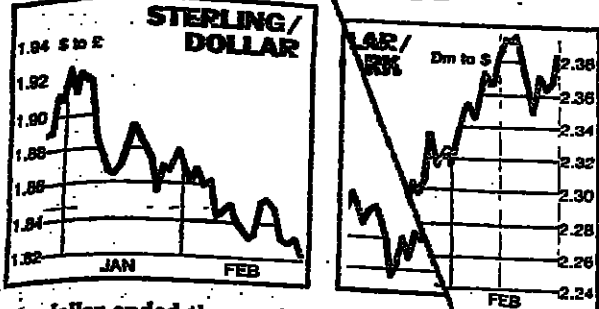
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BUSINESS NEWS

Dollar's firm note



The dollar ended the week on a firm note, high of DM2.39. It was helped by the strong to day's United States interest rates may not fall & view that the time being. The pound rallied from further for \$1.845 but sentiment continues to be at its low of soft oil price. At the weekly tender the rate fell from 13.62 to 13.28 per cent.

Fraser to see panel

Sir Hugh Fraser, who severed links with his Fraser family business on Thursday, says he will of Takeover Panel next week over selling the 4.4 per cent of Britain's largest stores group. He revealed last night that he had received one approach for his stake at Harrods group where trading group Loro had already 29.9 per cent and is anxious to resume a takeover source. That's all I'm saying. The price offered, believed to be 165p a share, a penny less than last night closing Stock Market price.

Engineering orders fall

Engineering orders won by United Kingdom companies fell by 16 per cent in the three months to the end of last November, according to government statistics. After a surge of export orders in August, new overseas business fell by 22.5 per cent over the following three months.

MARKET SUMMARY

Dismal close to account

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 547.3, down 4.5
FT 100 66.39, down 0.47
FT all-share 316.89, down 3.02
Bargains 21,885

Shares of British Aerospace were a weak market yesterday, falling 8p to 175p amid reports of a forthcoming bearish change from brokers Scrimgeour-Kemp Gee.

According to market sources the group may face inland Revenue scrutiny over its research and development costs which at present are taken above the line.

At this level the shares stand at the initial price of 175p offered when the shares came to market a year ago.

Shares in Sangers Group, the pharmaceuticals company in which financier Mr Tom Whyte has built up a substantial stake, have been suspended at 48p pending an announcement by the company early next week.

The group made losses of more than £1m in the half year to August and is expected to announce the sale of a big part of its business.

If Mr Whyte, the former head of the crashed Triumph Investment Trust, decides to sell it will be at a loss. When the first buying shares in September they stood at more than 80p.

Elsewhere Amersham International provided one of the few bright spots as the account ended in dismal fashion after the Prime Minister had apparently dashed hopes of a tax cut on budget.

As the political wrangling continued Amersham rose 5p to 194p and the shares now stand at a 52 premium to their issue price.

The FT Index drifted down throughout the day, closing 4.5 off at 547.3 — a fall on the account of 23.2. With the fall in sterling and the prospect of further pressure on sterling it forecasts of a further slump in demand for oil continues, gilt ended a quiet day with falls of 2%.

Further reflection of the previous day's statement slipped 2p from 325p to 323p while there were losses of 10p apiece for Blue Circle at 480p reflecting the group's Mexican currency problems, and Thomson EM at 443p after substantial selling in the electricals sector which has recently gone out of favour.

But after weakness prompted by talk that profit forecasts were being revised down and that money would be needed to support its Hongkong operation, BSR the record changer group related to favour, up 2p at 78p.

The following announcement by management that it was to cut capacity by closing a factory in the West Midlands with the loss of 800 jobs and transfer

of 1,000 to other plants, led to a further fall in the share price to 75p.

House of Fraser shares reached 172p in early trading on talk that there would be a new takeover attempt by Loro but finally slipped to 166p, a net 2p fall.

With the exception of interest over the Charterhouse bid for CCP North Sea, oil was again weak with Shell falling 10p to 336p and continued rights issue speculation pushing Ultramar down 12p to 378p ahead of figures next week.

Gold shares ended with losses of about a dollar, reflecting the depressed bullion price, while tin mining shares reflected the depressed commodity price.

Shares of Kwik Fit hit a new low of 44p, down 1p after strength surrounding its acquisition of former Firestone tyre depots last year, but with no figures due until May and trade reported as reasonable it appears to be simply lack of interest.

North-East based food and drink retailer Amos Hanton remained buoyant at 320p, its 1981-82 year chairman of Fleet, could not get joint owners of The Standard, arch rivals Associated Newspapers, to agree on the transfer of the stake.

Fifty per cent of the paper will thus remain with Trafalgar, but Lord Matthews says the intention is to transfer the shareholding into Fleet.

Equity turnover on February 25 was £182.783m. Gareth David

European cocoa dealers have been awarded settlements totaling \$31m after taking series of disputes with Ghana to arbitration. Most of the disputes concerned the low quality of Ghana cocoa over the last two seasons. The settlements are mainly discounts on previously agreed contract prices. London cocoa sources said that some Ghana cocoa has been the lowest quality for 20 years. The discounts have ranged up to 15 per cent of £200 a tonne off contract prices. Ghana is making renewed efforts to move cocoa from upcountry areas where it is deteriorating.

Other exchanges: Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones average 7,548.51, down 31.94. Hongkong: Hang Seng index 1,271.60, up 6.60.

Money markets: Rates held steady. The Bank of England bought £485m of bills at unchanged rates, having raised its short-term rate forecast from £300m to £450m. Domestic rates: base rates 13% 3-month interbank 14 1/4-14 1/2 Euro-currency rates 3-month dollar 14 1/4-15 1/4 3-month DM 10 1/4-9 1/4 3-month FRF 15% 15 1/4

Furore over Amersham puts BNOC issue in doubt

By Jonathan Davis and Ronald Pullen

The furore over the Amersham share sale has created new doubts whether the Government will be able to complete the planned flotation of shares in the British National Oil Corporation this year.

The Government's financial advisers, already worried about the success of the issue in the light of tumbling oil prices and the continuing depressed level of oil shares, feel that the political rumpus over Amersham has now made their task even harder.

One said last night that the chances of the BNOC issue being completed before the end of 1982 were now only marginally greater than 50 per cent. The Government has been working towards a 51 per cent of the issue for Amersham — the BNOC's exploration and development activities in the North Sea.

The Government's problem is a fixed price offer for sale of the shares to the public. The BNOC's exploration and development activities in the North Sea.

is a further 450 to neighbouring plants. These plants have been on a three-day strike since last October, but the remainder of the group is working normally and the management says that planned expansion in the Far East is on course.

An outstanding feature in the market was the sharp fall at Gill & Duffus 23p off at 143p after the down grading of profit forecasts. This prompted falls in other overseas traders, with Inchcape 7p off at 301p but Loro was unchanged at 74p.

Trading news gave a 5 1/2p boost to development at 189p after record first half figures. But ahead of results on Monday Barclays Bank shed 5p to 481p, while Royal Insurance, which is expected to suffer increasing underwriting losses as a result of the bad weather in January, shed 7p to 351p.

Speculative interest was given to Guinness Peat after recent substantial changes, and the shares put up 5p to 53p.

Vickers rose 1p to 165p after a line of 500,000 shares went through the market. The cleaning group Sketchley suffered a 16p fall to 272p after news of its planned £22m acquisition in the United States. Meanwhile, European Ferries slipped 1p to 81p after disclosing its plans for a £50 property deal in the United States.

Huntley and Palmer fell 5p to 102p as hopes of a counter to the Rowntree bid receded. Another recent bid favourite, Duple Steel, was also down, shedding 8p to 116p in the absence of any news.

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Dealing on the London Metal Exchange.

Tin price fall angers LME

By Michael Prest

Tin prices continued their nosedive yesterday, provoking anger among dealers on the London Metal Exchange and confusion as to the motives of the operator who supported the market until the beginning of the week.

Cash tin closed at £7,195 a tonne, £190 down on the day and no less than £1,690 below the price prevailing a week ago. Three months tin, which at the end of last week was £1,000 less than cash metal, ended yesterday £55 higher than cash tin, also a fall of £190.

The collapse followed a similar decline overnight on the Penang market. Tin prices there suffered the single sharpest fall in the market's history from \$433.15 a kilogramme (\$7,900 a tonne) to \$407.20 a tonne and like London prices reached their lowest for eight months.

Some dealers welcomed the collapse, despite the hectic trading which ensued, because it decisively ended fears of a squeeze, and gave consumers a chance to return to the market. Others were worried that the mystery buyer had changed tactics and by allowing the price to fall was forcing the International Tin Agreement buffer stock manager to buy metal.

Heavy buying of tin started last July when the cash price was about £5,000 a tonne. The buyer is widely believed to be a producer group headed by Malaysia. In November the operator switched from buying forward contracts to cash contracts and the market went into a backwardation where the cash price is higher than the forward. The group is thought to have spent more than £400m.

Some users of the market went short in November, convinced that prices were being held artificially high. As the delivery dates loomed at the end of this week the LME authorities took action to avert a corner.

In the event, the buying stopped, and trading yesterday was characterized by persistent forward selling of up to 10,000 tonnes of metal. Dealers were confused because they argued that selling in such quantity could only come from the support buyer.

LME members said that the fall would have been worse if the ITA buffer stock manager had not bought tin. Yesterday's Penang price was the agreement floor price, at which the manager is forced to intervene. If he buys more than 5,000 tonnes import controls are introduced.

Mr. Gill & Duffus, one of London's leading commodity brokers, said yesterday that its 1981 pretax profits would be between £2.5m and £4m lower than the £16m forecast last October. The board said it would maintain the final dividend at 6.86p gross, but the shares fell by 23p to 143p.

The shares began falling this week after stock market analysts said the company had lost money in the tumultuous tin market. But it said yesterday that losses from tin trading were unlikely to exceed £500,000.

It is stressed that this loss does not result from Gill & Duffus's own trading but from its own position in the tin market. The problem arose from clients having unmatched positions which Gill & Duffus could not cover at the price agreed with clients without paying out £1.2m.

The board said it was allowed by the London Metal Exchange authorities. In common with other brokers, Gill & Duffus has taken the losses on to its own books rather than pass them on to clients.

More important in the downgrading of the profit forecast is an ill-fated sortie into the American money markets. Gill & Duffus Securities, an American subsidiary, is estimated to have lost £1.5m and will be closed in the near fortnight. Half amount will be taken into the profit and loss account for 1981.

Gill & Duffus also revealed that losses from unauthorized commodity trading in Hongkong, which were discovered last October, are thought to be £7m, about £2m more than originally estimated. At the same time, trading by an American chemicals company and a Brazilian coffee exporting business have fallen substantially short of budgeted expectations.

The group made profits of £20.6m in 1979 and £23.1m in the following year. At the beginning of this week the share price was 176p.

International Westminster Bank. Sketchley has no borrowings so this brings its debt gearing ratio up to 55 per cent.

With the news came a forecast of Sketchley's pretax profits for the year to April 1982 of not less than £6.9m. This is at the top end of forecasts made last year when it made profits of £5.2m. A final dividend of 10.42p gross, making a total of 15p, is proposed but failed to cheer with the shares which fell 15p to 272p.

Increased profits, despite bad winter trading, are still coming through from greater efficiency and tight cash control.

Mr. Gerald Wightman, chairman, said the last year had been spent searching the United States for the right acquisition but it was only on February 1 that Means was chosen. The deal then took two weeks to conclude, he said.

Wightman: Two weeks to tie up deal

bulk of Sketchley's profits in Britain. The group is offering \$33 each for the 1.22m Means shares and is financing the deal by a placing of 4m shares of 25p each at 25p to raise £10.2m before expenses. The balance, £12m, is through a dollar loan with

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Allnutt cracks a business problem

By Margaret Pagano

Mr Roger Allnutt is so convinced of the efficacy of his "Alternative Business Thinking" that he offers to refund the £639 fee to anyone who can prove that he is not at least 20 per cent more effective in his business life after completing a three-day course. But Mr Allnutt aged 30, is sure he is on to a winner.

His own performance, I believe the course will enhance a business executive's performance which can be measured in terms of turnover, sales, profits or savings made," he says.

The course, run in a secluded hotel in the Cotswolds, is based on the principle that it is no good finding techniques to improve the monetary targets an executive sets himself, but to improve executives themselves.

This is to be achieved by giving them a sense of well-being, free from the symptoms of our time such as stress, lethargy and apathy induced by the harassments of the business world.

Mr Allnutt, who has run his company in partnership with his wife for three years, believes this can be found in the soothing melody of astrology, homeopathy, the art of relaxation and mind dynamics.

Similar courses have been run in the United States for some time and it was attending one that gave Mr Allnutt his original spur to set up a service here.

"I found their course far too esoteric but realized the value of what was being done," he says.

Last October he set about organizing his own course with guest speakers who include Dr Robin Pryor-Jones, who runs a private homeopathic practice and assists at the Royal Homeopathic Hospital in London, and other specialists on each topic.

So far the three pilot courses booked for March and April have found enthusiasm from a variety of organizations and companies.

Between the talks and lectures delegates are invited to have personal consultations with both the resident astrologers and homeopaths. He believes astrology is invaluable because it is able to identify personal strengths and weaknesses and so situations which would highlight or expose those weaknesses can then be avoided.

Mr Allnutt, says the next project he wants to float is a one-day seminar for women who are suffering increasingly, he believes, from ailments such as agoraphobia.

ACC refuses to name who ordered £1m jet

By Our Financial Staff

Associated Communications Corporation, formerly headed by Lord Grade and now controlled by the Australian businessman Mr. Holmes & Court, has discovered who ordered the £2m (£1.05m) Cessna jet for its Jetsette offshore without the approval of the board.

Mr. Holmes & Court declined to name the main board director who placed the order but said that talks for its disposal are at an advanced stage.

The order was placed last summer, when Lord Grade was chairman and Mr Jack Gill was deputy chairman of Jetsette. Its managing director, Mr. Reginald Pycroft, has said he had no knowledge of the order and wanted nothing to do with it.

ACC's merchant bankers, Standard Chartered, is likely to seek Takeover Panel approval next week for the sale of two of its assets, the Classic Cinema chain — valued in excess of £7m — and the Airport Park Hotel in Los Angeles. Panel approval is required because Mr. Holmes & Court's Bell Group is bidding for ACC.

North Sea oil prices are expected to be cut early next week, industry sources said yesterday as Mexico cut its oil prices by \$2.50 a barrel and the International Energy Agency predicted a further drop in world oil demand.

The British National Oil Corporation was still considering its response last night to a request for a barrel from Shell and BP for another reduction in North Sea prices, after the \$150 a barrel cut 2 1/2 weeks ago. But it is likely to concede a cut of at least \$2 a barrel in the next few weeks, with the possibility of a further reduction when

second quarter contracts come up for renewal. The Mexican move, which will bring its light crude oil down to \$32.50 a barrel, will increase the pressure on BNOC since the two oils are of roughly similar quality. Mexican oil is now markedly cheaper than its North Sea equivalent, which is still officially priced at \$35 a barrel.

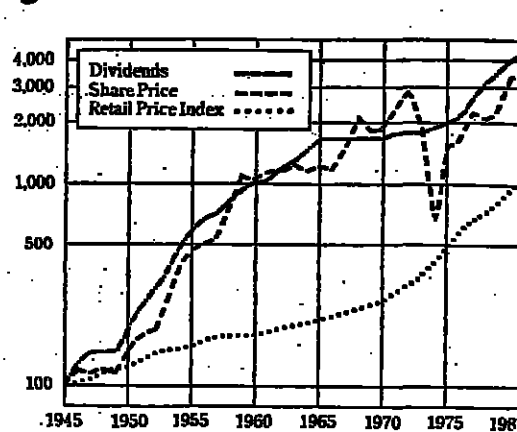
The International Energy Agency, which represents most western industrialized countries, said that world oil demand was running at about 7 per cent below its level this time last year.

"Our business is the long-term management of money. Since 1945 our share price has risen by 35 times and our dividend by 44 times..."

Our objective continues to be the provision of the best possible international portfolio. At the end of the year half the portfolio was invested overseas.

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FAMILY MONEY

Which unit trusts to go for, and why

In the face of falling interest rates — bank deposit rates came down 1 per cent on Wednesday — it is tempting for fixed interest investors to start looking around for greener pastures. Unit Trust Association figures indicate that unit trust investors have done better over the past five years than building society investors, though in some instances by such a small margin you would be forgiven for taking the view that the improved return was not worth the much greater risk.

The table shows the current value of £1,000 invested in the median unit trust in various sectors over five, ten and fifteen years. The median unit trust is the one which comes exactly half way in performance terms between the top of the table and the bottom. It is therefore not necessarily a clear indicator of how the average unit trust investor has fared.

What the table reveals is the importance of timing in equity investments. "Not the UK market is cheap, it may be running ahead too fast," she says. "We think Japan is expensive though the yen may still have some way to go and although the US market is cheap it may still have some way to fall."

Having chosen the sector, the next problem is which trusts to buy. There is no shortage of advice — fund managers, stockbrokers, insurance brokers, investment advisers and unit trust advisers will all make recommendations.

A useful chart survey had just been produced covering all unit trusts launched in 1971/72, analysing which funds within a sector have consistently outperformed, or underperformed, relative to a sector index. It is aimed at the professional adviser but if you can get hold of a copy it provides useful indicators on how to avoid the real losers, if not pointing out the winners.

The survey is called, Fund Monitor and is available by subscription at £105 for four quarterly issues, or £35 for a single issue, from Fund Monitor, Whitehall, Chapel Street, Exning, Newmarket CB8 7HB.

UNIT TRUST PERFORMANCE

	Current Value of £1,000 Invested	5 years	10 years	15 years
Median Fund				
General	2,102	2,036	4,473	
Growth	2,108	1,931	3,550	
Income	1,867	2,221	4,293	
N. American	1,595	1,489	2,499	
Far Eastern	2,050	2,912	4,679	
European	1,453	1,514	2,614	
International	1,818	2,015	4,687	
Commodity & Energy	2,339	2,715	4,687	
Financial & Property	2,000	1,678	3,702	
Investment Trust Units	1,305	1,374	1,465	
Preference Share Units	1,270			
Gift				
Building Society	1,498	2,078	2,642	

*net income reinvested.
Source: Unit Trust Association

First National Securities Base rate

First National Securities Limited announces that with effect from 1st March 1982 its base rate for lending will be reduced to 16½%.

First National Securities Ltd, First National House, College Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA1 1FB. Telephone: 01-861 1313.

THE UNITED STATES AND GENERAL TRUST CORPORATION P.L.C.

The Ninety-Second Annual General Meeting of The United States and General Trust Corporation P.L.C. will be held on March 25th in London.

The following is comment by the Chairman, Mr C. K. R. Nuttall, included in the Report of the Directors which has been circulated to shareholders:

In 1980, when sterling was strong, the emphasis on the U.K. market in the company's portfolio was beneficial. The reverse was true in 1981, when sterling weakened against other major currencies. Net asset value rose by 9.4 per cent, compared with rises of 7.2 per cent in the F.T. Actuaries All-Share Index, 12.9 per cent in the Standard & Poor's Composite Index of U.S. stocks and 34.5 per cent in the Tokyo New Stock Exchange Index (the last two indices are adjusted for changes in exchange rates). Net revenue available for ordinary shareholders rose by 5.0 per cent, compared with a rise of almost 10 per cent in 1980, but your Board sees no strong reason for retaining a final dividend of 7.50p per share, making 11.50p for the year, 9.5 per cent higher than the 10.50p paid for 1980.

Shareholders were informed in December of certain proposals involving a merger with two other investment trust companies and a change of policy to specialise in the U.K. stock market. These proposals will not now be implemented. However, further discussions are taking place with some major shareholders, in order to review how best your Company can respond to the current needs of investors.



Mr James Haswell, Insurance Ombudsman

Tales of woe for the ombudsman

More than 1,500 insurance policyholders have been in touch with the Insurance Ombudsman during the first nine months of his existence, complaining about everything from unsettled household insurance claims to inability to get response at all from their insurance company.

Among the problems dealt with by the ombudsman were disputes over the pre-accident value of a crashed car, whether a ceramic glass cooker hob was covered by a household contents policy, and advice that damage to a house caused by a dog's teeth is not "impact damage".

Predictably household buildings and contents policies provoked the biggest number of inquiries closely followed by motor insurance disputes. But of the 1,500-odd inquiries, only 441 concerned the 44 member companies of the Ombudsman's Bureau. Complaints made against other companies are outside his jurisdiction, though letters from the ombudsman always contain specific advice on where to go for help.

However, the fact that so many complaints fall outside his jurisdiction clearly illustrates the need for an industry-wide service — if necessary with statutory teeth. The Life Offices Association has recommended its members to join either the Ombudsman Bureau, or the rival organisation, PIAS, Personal Insurance Arbitration Service.

But anyone with a complaint against an insurance company would do well to think twice before approaching PIAS. A policyholder who wants a dispute heard by PIAS, first has to obtain the consent of the insurance company (not a very satisfactory state of affairs). If the insurer agrees to go to arbitration, the policyholder has to agree to be bound by the arbitrator's decision and forfeits any right to pursue his case through the courts.

Policyholders who consult the Ombudsman are under no such constraint, can consult him freely and are not bound to accept his decision (though most do). If you have a complaint which has not been dealt with satisfactorily by your insurance company (and always try writing to the chief executive first) you can contact the ombudsman at The Insurance Ombudsman Bureau, 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5JH.

To err is human — even inspectors of Taxes make mistakes. The taxpayer who provides the Inland Revenue with all the relevant information may assume that his affairs are in order.

But this is not necessarily so, and if the Revenue has made a mistake, the law allows an assessment to be made up to six years after the end of the relevant tax year, or longer if the taxpayer has been guilty of some irregularity.

An unexpected demand for unpaid tax comes as a nasty shock, but if the arrears are due to a mistake by the Revenue, it may be possible to obtain a waiver of some or all of the tax owing.

Following publication of a government White Paper, a system of compensation was introduced in 1971 whereby those on low incomes who suffer hardship as a result of the Revenue's mistake are entitled in certain circumstances to remission of part or all of the arrears.

There clearly had to be some rule of thumb for determining the degree of "hardship" which a particular taxpayer was likely to suffer. So a number of income bands were established, and the remission to which a taxpayer is entitled depends on which band his income falls into.

The White Paper stated that remission would be granted only where arrears of tax arose "because of a departmental error which involved the failure to make proper and timely use of information about his income or personal circumstances supplied by the taxpayer so that he could reasonably believe that his affairs were in order".

It is important to note that the onus is still fairly and squarely on the taxpayer to supply the information in the first place, and he must "reasonably believe" his affairs are in order.

Remission applies where arrears of tax are discovered on or after July 14, 1971. The gross income limits in each band are increased by £2,000 where, at the date of notification of the arrears, the taxpayer was at least 65 years-old, or in receipt of a state retirement or widow's pension.

Remission is available only where there has been substantial delay on the Revenue's part. In practice, it is not normally given where the preceding year is normally used unless a fall in the level of the taxpayer's income is expected — for instance, on retirement.

"Gross income" is not necessarily the same as income assessable for tax purposes. It is arrived at by means of a special calculation which permits only certain specific deductions.

The normal procedure is for the taxpayer to write to the inspector to set out the arrears that have come to light, and the amount of remission he considers to be due. He will also consider any representations made by the taxpayer.

But if the taxpayer still feels that he hasn't had a fair hearing, it is always open to him to draw the matter to the attention of his MP.

Michael Koppel

Alliance extra interest to woo the customer

Alliance Building Society is the latest to offer improved terms on its "extra interest" account. Hardly a day passes without either a bank or building society offering some new incentive to entice customers across the threshold.

From March 1, Alliance is increasing the differential over the ordinary share rate offered on its "extra interest" account. It used to be 1.25 per cent above the ordinary share rate (currently 9.75 per cent) but likely to come down in March, but from next month it will rise to 1.5 per cent above the ordinary share rate giving a return at current rates of 11.25 per cent, basic rate tax paid.

Alliance is also improving the withdrawal facility, making money available on two months' notice instead of three, and there is no loss of interest or penalty if the requisite notice is given. Alternatively money can be withdrawn instantly with two months' loss of interest on the amount withdrawn.

This move by Alliance is no doubt intended to head off any possibility of mass withdrawals when the now inevitable cut in both investment and savings rates is announced by the building societies on March 12. Halifax is also working on improvements to its "extra interest account" and will be revealing details on Monday. Improvements are likely to be along similar lines to those announced by the Alliance.

It is not hard to see why the societies are fighting so fiercely to hang on to their customers. National Savings

has been a powerful force in the savings market, and the banks have been poaching borrowing customers left, right and centre.

National Westminster Bank announced this week a cut in its mortgage rate from 15 per cent to 14.5 per cent, making its home loans the cheapest on offer.

On the mortgage front the building societies have retaliated offering 100 per cent loans. Bristol and West is prepared to lend 100 per cent of the purchase price to first-time buyers who are in regular employment and with what Bristol and West euphemistically describe as "prospects of advancement". And this week London and Manchester Assurance launched a scheme offering top-up loans in conjunction with a building society loan up to 100 per cent of purchase price.

There is, however, a catch with the London and Manchester scheme. The top-up loan is at a fixed rate of 16.5 per cent and must be linked to a non-profit endowment (generally one of the world's buys in the insurance world). In addition the main building society loan has to be linked to a London and Manchester "low-cost" or full endowment policy.

But the coup of the week was pulled off by Leicester Building Society which has launched the Abbey National cheque book facility some time in May or June this year. How long the other societies can afford to stand aloof remains to be seen.

Lorna Bourke

Cashing in on foreign currencies

Foreign exchange markets are feeling thoroughly shaken. Judging where to put cash in the hope of making a capital gain is an act nearer gambling than usual.

"At least if you put your money in dollars there is a good yield. So, if the currency is not higher when you get out, at least you will have gained something," said one foreign exchange dealer, struggling to be helpful.

The odds are on the dollar being the strongest currency, while United States interest rates are thought to be on an upward trend. That, on the other hand, is a difficult matter to determine. Paul Volcker, who as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board is in charge of interest rates, is running a tighter monetary

policy than Mrs Thatcher ever tried. Rates follow the magic Friday afternoon figures on money supply, range up to \$150 billion for the actual out-turn. At the same time the big corporations refuse to raise their interest rates, because they want to give a boost to consumer spending and economic growth at home. The gap between Japanese and United States interest rates is 9 per cent.

And sterling? Still supported by high interest rates — only 1 per cent below those for the dollars in the Euro markets.

All in all currency speculation should carry a financial health warning.

Easing the hardship of back-tax



not normally given where the preceding year is normally used unless a fall in the level of the taxpayer's income is expected — for instance, on retirement.

"Gross income" is not necessarily the same as income assessable for tax purposes. It is arrived at by means of a special calculation which permits only certain specific deductions.

The normal procedure is for the taxpayer to write to the inspector to set out the arrears that have come to light, and the amount of remission he considers to be due. He will also consider any representations made by the taxpayer.

But if the taxpayer still feels that he hasn't had a fair hearing, it is always open to him to draw the matter to the attention of his MP.

Michael Koppel

The best bet for savers

Following the 0.5 per cent cut in banks' base rate, National Savings wasted no time in cutting the rate offered on National Savings Bank Investment Account. NSB has been paying 15 per cent, due to go down to 14 per cent on March 1 and from April 1 the rate paid will be further reduced to 13.5 per cent.

For all but the non-taxpayer, this makes a building society extra interest account, currently showing a return of around 10.75 per cent basic rate tax paid, by far the most attractive proposition.

However, the societies will be reducing their rates when the Building Societies Association meets on March 12 to decide on a new structure.

One per cent (possibly more) off the mortgage rate is a virtual certainty, but there is likely to be hot debate in the council meeting over where the investment rate ought to be fixed.

With a 14 per cent mortgage rate, the probable investment rate, in the days when the building societies' cartel was still effective, would have been 8.75 or 9 per cent. But with most societies paying 1 per cent more on extra interest accounts, there is a powerful feeling among some building society men that the ordinary share rate should be no more than 8.5 per cent.

MONEY TALK

Investors in record bonus

Residents of the North East of England are to be guinea pigs for a new recruitment drive launched Nationwide Building Society. First time investors current account holders of the society who deposit £500 or more are being offered a choice of special compilation recordings generally available from Tellydisc, direct sales organisations whose ads are impossible to miss on television.

The promotion will be launched on March 1 and offer will be available in branches of Nationwide in the North East of England possibly extending to other areas at a later date if the scheme is successful.

Up in flames

Property worth an estimated £34.7m went up in flames during January alone with four fires costing over £1m each. The largest, estimated at £3.5m, was at an army depot in the Midlands.

During the month there were 75 fires costing more than £50,000 of which 23 were in places used by the public, such as cinemas, schools, shops, social clubs and theatres.

Prices static

Latest figures show that average house prices rose by only 0.8 per cent during 1981. The 1980 average house price was £2,087 which rose to £2,102 by the end of 1981, though there are considerable regional variations. This compares with house price rises of 17.1, 23.1 and 15.5 per cent in 1978, '79 and '80 respectively.

Mint on trial

This week the Royal Mint went on ceremonial annual trial in Goldsmiths' Hall. The 1980 average house price was £2,087 which rose to £2,102 by the end of 1981, though there are considerable regional variations. This compares with house price rises of 17.1, 23.1 and 15.5 per cent in 1978, '79 and '80 respectively.

Transplacement

Firms are increasingly finding that staff may turn down transfers to other areas even if it involves promotion because the spouse does not want to leave his or her career. "Transplacement" is the American response to this reluctance to move, explains an article in this month's International Management.

Companies are offering counselling to spouses, using consultants who offer transplacement services and, in some cases, even employing the spouse themselves. Transplacement is largely confined to America but, as the same problems exist here, English companies should also perhaps be thinking along these lines, says the article.

Rock finals

The National Final of the TSB Rock School Competition will take place in Manchester on March 26. Four pop celebrities will have the difficult task of judging the young bands competing for prizes totalling £4,000 and £1,000 worth of musical equipment to be donated to the winning school. The Final is between eight regional finalists and after last year's success, the TSB can expect a large audience of enthusiastic supporters.



Radio one disc jockey Mike Read who will compere the TSB Rock School Competition.

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price Ch'ge	Gross Div (%)	Yld %	Actual	P/E Ratio
124	100	ABT Rides 10% CULS	124	—	10.0	8.1	—	—
75	62	Airsprung Group	70	—	4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4
51	33	Armstrong & Rhodes	45	—	4.3	9.6	3.8	8.5
205	187	Bardon Hill	200	-1	9.7	4.9	9.7	11.8
104	69	Deborah Services	69ad	—	6.0	8.7	3.3	6.1
131	97	Frank Horsell	131	—	6.4	4.5	11.8	24.3
83	39	Frederick Parker	83	—	6.4	7.7	4.2	—
78	46	Globe Blair	52	+1	—	—	—	—
102	93	Ind. Prof. Castings	95	—	7.3	7.7	6.8	18.3
106	100	Isis Cont Preet	106	—	15.7	14.8	—	—
113	94	Jackson Group	97	+1	7.0	7.2	3.1	6.9
130	108	James Burroughs	112	—	8.7	7.8	8.2	10.3
334	250	Robert Jenkins	250	—	31.3	12.5	3.5	8.8
60	51	Scruttons "A"	60	+1	5.3	8.8	9.2	8.5
222	160	Torday & Carlisle	160	—	10.7	6.7	5.1	9.5
15	10	Twinklark Ord	15	—	15.0	19.2	—	—
89	56	Twinklark 15% UL5	78	—	3.0	12.0	4.5	7.5
44	25	Unilock Holdings	25	—	6.4	8.4	5.0	8.8
183	73	Walter Alexander	72	—	13.1	5.7	4.3	8.8
263	212	W. S. Yeates	228	—	—	—	—	—

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

BOXING

BELWYN H	
DOWLING	
HODGSON	
ERDMANUEL H	X
KENNYMAN H	
CALVERT H	
NEWELLAM IV	
MORSEYTON H	
PITTSWILLIAM H	
THURLEY HALL H	
JONES H	

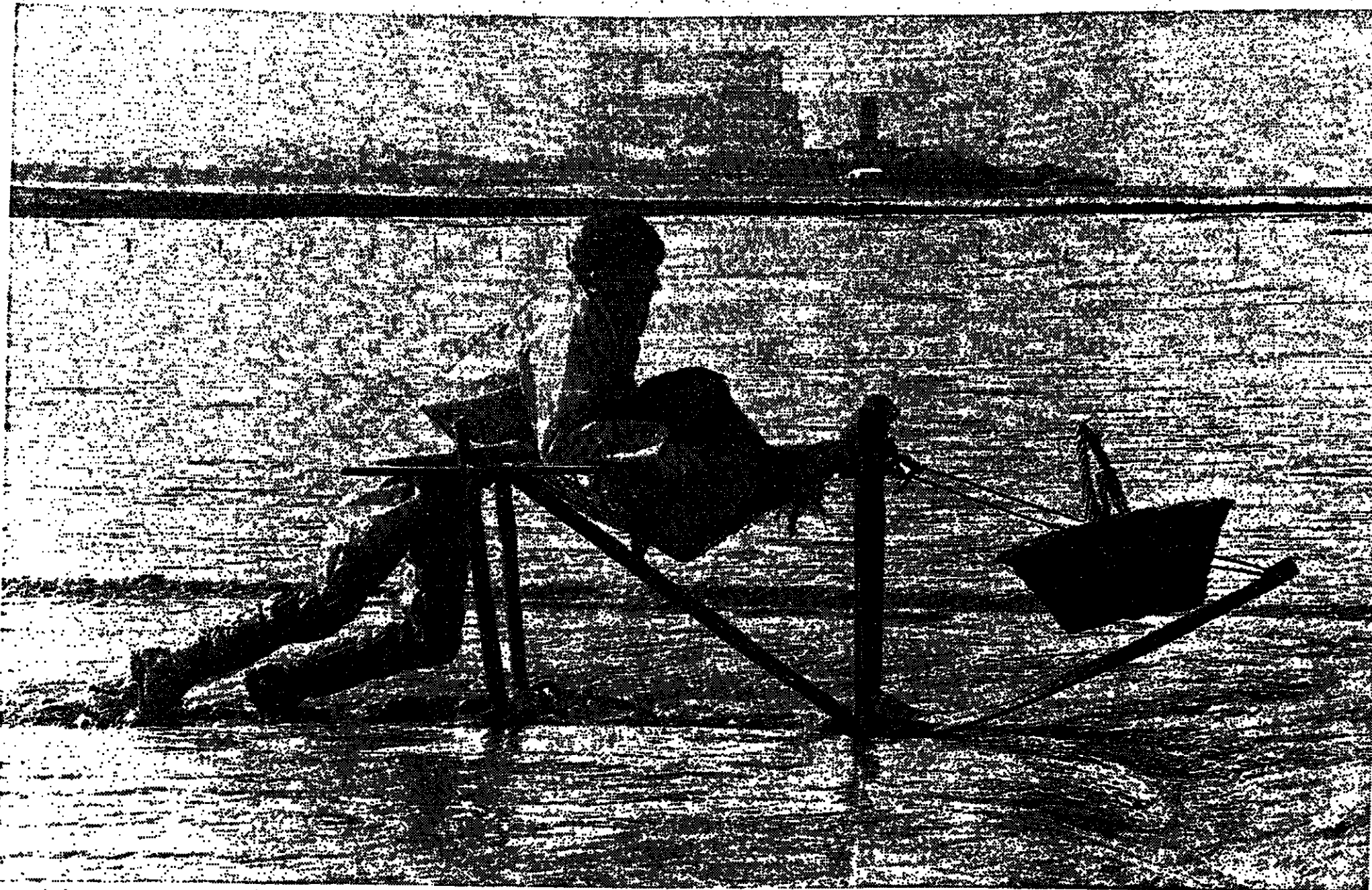
CAIUS	
NEW HALL II	
CHRIST'S	
ST CATHERINE'S	
DAEWIN	
FITZWILLIAM	
GRACE	
QUEENS	
NEWBHAM II	
SELWYN II	
DOWNING	
ROBINSON	
EMERSON	
NEWBHAM III	
CHRIST'S II	
NEWBHAM IV	
ROBINSON II	
FITZWILLIAM II	
TALBOT HALL II	

[illegible]

EMMANUEL IV	
HORRIGAN II	
GURTON II	
FOMEN	
1 GURTON	
NEWMAN	
NEWMAN	
NEWELL	
CHURCHILL	
1st & 2nd TRINITY	
CLARE	
GURTON II	
HORRIGAN	
TRINITY HALL	
IGLES	
CLARE II	
EMMANUEL	
STEADY SUSSEX	

GIRTON II
HORRINGTON
IRIDISTY HALL
IVORY
CLARE II
EDMUNDALE
EDMUND SURGE
CAIUS
NEW HALL II
II CHRIST'S
ST C CATHERINE'S
DARWIN
FITZWILLIAM
ORSALE
QUEEN'S
NEWNSHAM II
SILWYN II
BOWING
BOSTON

CAIUS	
NEW HALL II	
CHRIST'S II	
ST CATHERINE'S	
DARWIN	
PETER WILLIAM	
OSCAR	
QUEEN'S	
NEW HAMPSHIRE II	
SHELBY II	
DOWNING	
HENDERSON	
EDMUND ARTHUR II	
NEW HAMPSHIRE II	
CHRIST'S II	
NEW HAMPSHIRE IV	
HOMERINGTON II	
PETER WILLIAM II	
TRINITY HALL II	
JERUS II	



A mud horseman, still riding by

At low tide the Steart Flats on the Somerset coast are an almost impassable quagmire of clinging mud. However, Mr. Sellick manages to skim safely at speed across the treacherous surface to his shrimp nets more than a mile out, half laying, half crouching aboard his "mud horse", an extraordinary wooden sledge used for centuries by local fishermen to reach their distant catch.

Mr. Sellick and Mr. Tony Brewer, both from the tiny hamlet of Stifford, near Bridgwater, could be the last Somerset fishermen to use this traditional form of transport across mud flats. It is not thought to be used anywhere else in the world.

Most days, at low tide, when the sea recedes by two miles across the mud flats in Bridgwater Bay, Mr. Sellick and Mr. Brewer can be seen propelling themselves out to their dozens of shrimp nets staked to 6ft high poles. In the background is the giant outline of the nuclear power station at Hinkley Point.

The men, both in their late forties, spreadeagle their bodies across the upper frame of the sledge, their toes digging into the top few inches of the slippery mud as they push themselves along. On a return journey their sledges will be laden with several hundredweight of shrimps and fish, carried in nets slung from the superstructure of the mud horse, as it swishes over the surface with ease.

The design of the mud horse has almost certainly not changed for hundreds of years when local fishermen, including several generations of the Sellick and Brewer families, used them to make a living. It seems that the design simply cannot be improved; recent attempts to use hovercraft or even motor vehicles to make the same journey across the flats have failed, their engines becoming hopelessly clogged.

The mud flats are a dangerous place for the inexperienced. To walk out, as we did, in boots would have been foolhardy if Mr. Sellick had not been there aboard his sledge. Photographer Nick Rodgers had to be pulled out from thigh-deep mud by Mr.

Sellick, while I finished the exhausting journey bare footed, my boots sucked from my feet by the mud.

Speed is the thing. You have got to keep moving or you will sink. And you have got to move quickly when you are out there because when the tide starts to come back in, it moves very fast indeed," said Mr. Sellick, the father of six daughters and a son he hopes will continue the mud horse tradition.

Craig Seton

Letter from Hillhead Vulgar populism, down by the riverside

A quarter of the Glasgow, Hillhead, electorate has still not made up its mind, the pollsters say, despite the fact that some of the by-election campaigns have started already. This clearly distresses Mr. David Mitchell, the president of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Association. He raises a pained eyebrow when quoted by journalists calling at the secured committee rooms in a pleasant cul-de-sac near the Bellsbray parish church.

"The by-election writ has not been moved yet", he sternly points out in polite, but unmistakably patrician tones.

The Conservatives and Unionists, a different breed from the Desert Rat Tories of the old House of Commons, have held the seat for 30 years and they are quietly confident that they will hold it again, despite only a 2,002 majority in 1979, and the vulgar, populist noises emanating from the Social Democratic Party and Scottish National Party's committee rooms in the vulgar and populist Dunbarton Road, down by the seamy banks of the River Clyde.

The Tories certainly have a good candidate, Mr. Gerry Malone is a local lad, a councillor and solicitor who has come up the hard way; fighting two safe Labour fields in Glasgow in 1974 and challenging Mr. David Steel at long last in the Glasgow, Roxborough, Selkirk and Peebles in 1979. Mr. Malone has only two real problems: Mrs Thatcher's policies and Mr. Roy Jenkins's charisma.

Mr. Jenkins has two secret weapons, both of them Labour stalwarts, extremely well-known and respected in the constituency. One is Mrs. Buntie Urquhart, a former member of the old Independent Labour Party, and for 22 years the Labour Party's assistant organiser in Glasgow. The organising skills of this formidable lady are much in evidence in the spacious SDP committee rooms.

The other secret weapon is Mr. David Welsh, the former Labour candidate in the constituency of famous Labour Lord Provost of Glasgow, and a man who should swing the middle class Labour vote to the SDP in the better heeled parts of Hillhead.

Mr. Jenkins's supporters are clearly regarded as traitors by the staff addressing envelopes in the Labour headquarters, a dingy but lovingly tended office that is the only sign of life in a derelict tenement block. Like the Tory workers, the Labour people highly disapprove of the SDP starting their campaign so early.

The Labour candidate, Mr. David Wiseman, has not yet taken leave from his job as a community worker, "but you'll see plenty of him once the campaign starts". We will also see plenty of Front Bench Labour visitors who have the set quality that the worthy but unknown Mr. Wiseman lacks.

After making some fairly nasty cracks about Mr. Jenkins earlier on the Scottish National Party, Mr. George Leslie, has now decided to be nice. Which he is, and a Glasgow-trained veterinary into the bargain.

Of all the four main candidates he has the most leeway to make up, according to the polls. He says that Mr. Jenkins is making it easy for him to improve on his 11 per cent support.

He's broken the old allegiances, says Mr. Leslie, at 42, a seasoned SNP electioneer, "and I fully expect to get 28 per cent of the votes. That's enough to win, and my money's on a recon".

The SNP may portray Mr. Jenkins as an outsider, but the pollsters have found this may not hurt him as much as might be expected. A recent street interview found one gentleman who said he would vote for Mr. Jenkins because he had always been in the EEC himself. But, the perplexed psephologist replied, Mr. Jenkins had been president of the EEC Commission in Brussels.

"Aye", said the man in the street, but he jacked it in, didn't he?"

Jonathan Wills

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

New exhibitions
Carel Wright, York City Art Gallery, Exhibition Square, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5; (from today until April 4).
Sculptures by Anthony Caro, Hunterian Art Gallery, Glasgow, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 9.30 to 11; (from today until April 10).

Work by Edward Bird, Central Art Gallery, Richmond Street, Wolverhampton; Mon to Sat 10 to 6; (from today until April 3).
Recent paintings by David Holmes, City Museum and Art Gallery, Princes Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5; (ends today).
Drawings by Alistair Macdonald and paintings by Anne Smith, Octagon Gallery & Crafts Showroom, 1 Lower Casement, Belfast; 11 to 5 (ends today).
Paintings by Sean Scully, Arts Council Gallery, Bedford Street, Belfast; 10 to 5 (ends today).
A Glimpse of the Past - local views from old photographs, Museum and Art Gallery, Stirling; 10 to 5 (ends today).
Watercolours of British wildlife and landscapes by Ian Rotherham, Edward Mayall Gallery, Sheffield; 10 to 5 (ends today).
One Off Wearables - original garments by designers including Jean Muir, Sandy Black, Shirley Law, and Past and Present, Ceramists, Bridges Crafts Centre, 43 Barham Street, Covent Garden, WC2; 10 to 4 (both ends today).
Photographs by Mari Mahr, Essex Road, Islington, N1; 11 to 6 (ends today).

National Gallery of Scotland
George IV Bridge, Edinburgh; 9.30 to 1; (ends today).
Recent paintings by David Holmes, City Museum and Art Gallery, Princes Street, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5; (ends today).
Drawings by Alistair Macdonald and paintings by Anne Smith, Octagon Gallery & Crafts Showroom, 1 Lower Casement, Belfast; 11 to 5 (ends today).
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The Pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.31	2.31
Canada \$	2.31	2.31
Denmark Kr	15.15	14.36
Finland Mark	8.67	8.22
France Fr	11.59	10.50
Germany DM	4.53	4.23
Greece Dr	117.00	110.00
Hong Kong \$	11.10	10.50
Ireland P	1.27	1.22
Italy Lit	2395.00	2295.00
Japan ¥	155.00	145.00
Netherlands Gld	4.36	4.70
Norway Kr	11.44	10.84
Portugal Esc	130.50	123.50
Spain Ptas	166.64	155.00
Sweden Kr	11.03	10.45
Switzerland Fr	3.60	3.28
USA \$	1.58	1.51
Yugoslav Dnr	97.50	91.50

St David's Day

A National Festival to mark St David's Day (March 1) will be held at the Albert Hall, London, at 7 pm today. Tickets, £1 to £7.50.

The Cardiff Polyphonic Choir and the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra will play a programme of Handel and Haydn at St David's Church, Swansea, at 7.30 pm.

The Liverpool Welsh Choral Union will give a concert of music by Handel and Mozart at Prichard Jones Hall, Bangor, 7.30 pm.

Roads

Wales and the West: A4: Bath Road, Bristol greatly reduced in width; A5: Temporary signals at Caerphilly, between Brycheiniog and Bangor Gwynedd; A361: Partially closed, west of Taunton, Somerset.

The North: A629: Roadworks between Leeds and Bradford; A1/A6136: Several lane closures on Catcliffe bypass N York; A654: Long delays at Leeming Box, N York.

Scotland: A54: Single lane traffic and temporary lights 11 miles S of Coupar Angus during bridge reconstruction; A95: Temporary signals near Grantown on Spey, Inverness-shire; A832: Traffic lights operating between Auchtermuchty and Auchtermuchty, the AA reports.

Weather

Frontal troughs will move E across W and central areas of the British Isles.

6 am to midnight
SE, Central S England, Midlands: Becoming cloudy, with rain spreading from W; wind S, moderate, increasing fresh and strong SW; max temp 7 or 8C (45 or 46F).
Channel Isles, SW England: Cloudy, occasional rain, becoming more persistent and heavy in places; wind mainly SW, moderate or fresh; max temp 8 to 10C (46 to 50F).
Wales, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Channel Islands: Becoming rain, becoming more persistent in places; wind mainly SW, fresh, locally strong; max temp 7 or 8C (45 or 46F).
NW, Central N England, Lake District: Becoming cloudy, rain spreading from W; wind mainly SW, fresh, locally strong; max temp 7 or 8C (45 or 46F).
Border, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen: Mostly dry, but mainly SW, fresh or strong, locally gale force; max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).
Central Highlands, NW, NE, NW Scotland: Mostly cloudy, rain becoming more persistent in places; wind mainly SW, strong or very strong, locally gale force; max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).
Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, showers or heavy rain; wind SW, strong or very strong, locally gale force; max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).
Belfast, Glasgow and Manx: Mostly dry, but mainly SW, fresh or strong, locally gale force; max temp 6 to 8C (43 to 46F).
Changeable and windy at times. Near normal temperatures.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind S, moderate or fresh, increasing strong; sea moderate.

Lowest temp: March 2, 1.1C (34.2F).
Lowest temp: March 2, 1.1C (34.2F).

Lighting up time

Location	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
London	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Bristol	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Cardiff	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Dundee	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Edinburgh	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Glasgow	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Harwich	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Leeds	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Liverpool	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Manchester	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Newcastle	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Nottingham	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Sheffield	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Southampton	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Stirling	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Swansea	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Torquay	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Wolverhampton	6.30 pm to 6.15 am
Wrexham	6.30 pm to 6.15 am

High tides

Location	AM	PM	Location	AM	PM
London Bridge	5.57	7.3	London Bridge	5.57	7.3
Bristol	5.57	7.3	Bristol	5.57	7.3
Cardiff	5.57	7.3	Cardiff	5.57	7.3
Dundee	5.57	7.3	Dundee	5.57	7.3
Edinburgh	5.57	7.3	Edinburgh	5.57	7.3
Glasgow	5.57	7.3	Glasgow	5.57	7.3
Harwich	5.57	7.3	Harwich	5.57	7.3
Leeds	5.57	7.3	Leeds	5.57	7.3
Liverpool	5.57	7.3	Liverpool	5.57	7.3
Manchester	5.57	7.3	Manchester	5.57	7.3
Newcastle	5.57	7.3	Newcastle	5.57	7.3
Nottingham	5.57	7.3	Nottingham	5.57	7.3
Sheffield	5.57	7.3	Sheffield	5.57	7.3
Southampton	5.57	7.3	Southampton	5.57	7.3
Stirling	5.57	7.3	Stirling	5.57	7.3
Swansea	5.57	7.3	Swansea	5.57	7.3
Torquay	5.57	7.3	Torquay	5.57	7.3
Wolverhampton	5.57	7.3	Wolverhampton	5.57	7.3
Wrexham	5.57	7.3	Wrexham	5.57	7.3

Lowest and highest

Location	Lowest	Highest
London	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Bristol	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Cardiff	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Dundee	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Edinburgh	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Glasgow	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Harwich	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Leeds	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Liverpool	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Manchester	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Newcastle	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Nottingham	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Sheffield	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Southampton	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Stirling	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Swansea	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Torquay	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Wolverhampton	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)
Wrexham	1.1C (34.2F)	10.1C (50.2F)

Satellite predictions

Location	Flare	Time
London	Flare	Time
Bristol	Flare	Time
Cardiff	Flare	Time
Dundee	Flare	Time
Edinburgh	Flare	Time
Glasgow	Flare	Time
Harwich	Flare	Time
Leeds	Flare	Time
Liverpool	Flare	Time
Manchester	Flare	Time
Newcastle	Flare	Time
Nottingham	Flare	Time
Sheffield	Flare	Time
Southampton	Flare	Time
Stirling	Flare	Time
Swansea	Flare	Time
Torquay	Flare	Time
Wolverhampton	Flare	Time
Wrexham	Flare	Time

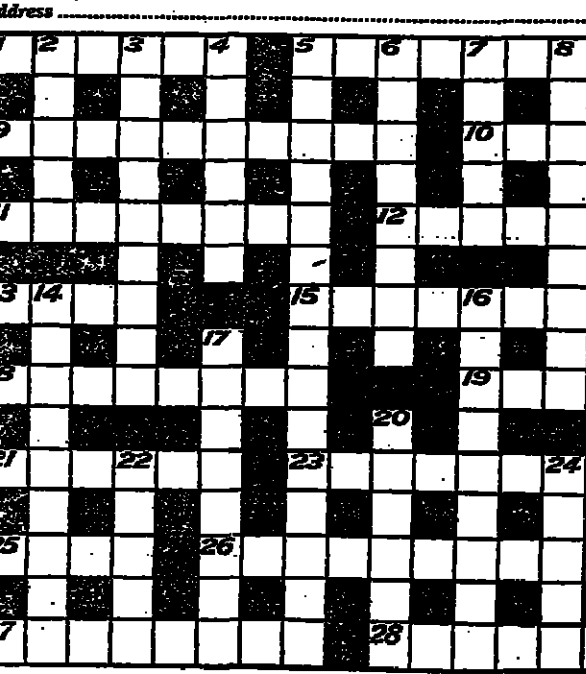
Abroad

Location	Flare	Time
London	Flare	Time
Bristol	Flare	Time
Cardiff	Flare	Time
Dundee	Flare	Time
Edinburgh	Flare	Time
Glasgow	Flare	Time
Harwich	Flare	Time
Leeds	Flare	Time
Liverpool	Flare	Time
Manchester	Flare	Time
Newcastle	Flare	Time
Nottingham	Flare	Time
Sheffield	Flare	Time
Southampton	Flare	Time
Stirling	Flare	Time
Swansea	Flare	Time
Torquay	Flare	Time
Wolverhampton	Flare	Time
Wrexham	Flare	Time

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 15,767

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first correct solution opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Foley Street, London WC9 9YT. The winner and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winner of The Times Crossword Competition No. 15,761 on Saturday, February 20 was Mr. L. H. S. Straton, 14 Folkestone Road, Salisbury.



- ACROSS**
- Put an end to drink (5).
 - Battle resolved later in court (8).
 - Blow the bribe of an extra drink (4-6).
 - French writer a non-union director? (4).
 - Neat and posh sort of carriage (8).
 - "How" after with his Pomp? (Fitzgerald) (6).
 - Day of victory to end with prohibition (4).
 - No words to describe this display (4-4).
 - Resolutely bring up to strength (8).
 - Sweetheart time? (4).
 - Knock out during spirit (6).
 - Mixed outcome of cabinet shake-up? (8).
 - Money taken at gunpoint (4).
 - Heavenly stars wasted so to speak (5,4).
- DOWN**
- Graphic picture of head of house in trouble (9).
 - Impressionist's forte going on the air? (6-3).
 - How silly babies meet? (4-2).
 - A lot of sadness from the time of his birth (10,5).
 - Old head-dress not everyone finds annoying (8).
 - Drink up! Splendid! (5).
 - He's not even included (3,3,3).
 - Able maybe to hold forth with much ornamentation (9).
 - Party on board - serve drinks here (4-5).
 - Pleased with one sort of oil made from flowers (8).
 - To wit, nice blend of natural views (6).
 - Daisy went to look upon (5).
 - Small piece of land sounds a bit of a hole (5).

Tomorrow

Royal Engagements
The Prince of Wales, president of the Royal College of Music Centenary Appeal Committee, accompanied by the Princess of Wales, attends a service of thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey to mark the centenary of the founding of the Royal College of Music, and later attends a reception at St James's Palace, 3. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother attends the centenary of the founding of the Royal College of Music, and later attends a reception at St James's Palace, 2.55; and later attends a reception at St James's Palace, 5.25.

Musical
Recital by the French pianist Bernard Artzi, St John's, Smith Square, Westminster, 7.30.
Concert of music by Dvorak and Mendelssohn, at North West, Education, Hinkley Road, Nuneaton, 7.45.
Church concert at Mitchell Hall, Marischal Cottage, Aberdeen, 8.
Ulster Orchestra Concert, Ulster Hall, Belfast, 8.
Exhibitions
Scottish Writing Today, 1981: National Book League Scotland, 15a Lyndoch Street, Glasgow; Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4; (until March 1).
Paintings, drawings and watercolours by Constable, Tate Gallery; Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 6; (until April 4).
Paintings by Meredith Frampton, 1924-1945; Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 6; (until March 28).
Second Sight: Canaletto, "The Stonemason's Yard", "Guardi, "Piazza San Marco", Guardi,

In the garden

Time now, weather and soil conditions permitting, to put herbaceous beds or borders to rights ready for the summer. Cut down any old stems left from last year, and remove dead leaves. Spread an organic fertilizer such as hoof and horn or bone meal at about 2 oz to the square yard, between the plants and fork it lightly in. Remove or bury the weeds at the same time. Protect tender young shoots, particularly delphiniums, by scattering straw clippings and or chopped straw and mulch with daisies, rudbeckias, veronicas and helianthus may all be divided. If clumps are too large and congested they will probably produce poor flower heads. Phloxes and other perennials are now infested with ground elder or couch grass, dig the plants up, divide them, pick out all the pieces of weed roots and plant them in a temporary bed for this summer.

Anniversaries

Births: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Portland, Maine, US, 1807; Ellen Terry, Coventry, 1847; Robert Barry, Bourne-mouth, 1848. Deaths: John Evelyn, at Wotton, Surrey, 1706. Boer forces defeated the British at Maribah Hill, Natal, 1881. The Labour Representation Committee, forerunner of the Labour Party was founded in the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London, 1900.

TOMORROW
John Tenniel was born in London, 1820. Henry James died in London, 1916. Lady Smith, died, since November 2, 1899, was relieved, 1900.

Viewing today

Phillips, Bloomsbury Street: watercolours and drawings, 9 to 12, prints, to 12; furniture, carpets and objects, 9 to 12.

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